The Pittsburgh Gazette.

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SECOND EDITION

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.
(FIRST SESSION.)

Drawing Seats in the House.

Personal Explanation by Mr. Blaine.

Reading of the President's Message

WASHINGTON, December 7, 1875.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at twelve o'clock. After prayer by the Chaplain, and the reading of the Journal of yesterday's proceedings,

Mr. EATON sent to the Clerk's desk and had read the credentials of James E English, appointed United States Senator from Connecticut, in place of Orris S. Ferry, deceased, and the oath of office was administered to the new Senator.

Mr. Adams, Clerk of the House of Representatives, appeared at the bar of the Senate, with a message announcing the organization of the House, and the appointment of a committee to join the committee of the Senate to wait upon the President of the United States, to inform him that the two Houses of Congress had reported that the President replied that he would communicate with Congress immediately in writing.

The President's Message.

At 1:15 Mr. Luckey, Private Secretary to the President, appeared at the bar of the Senate with the message, and it was read. The reading was concluded at 2:08, and was listened to with marked attention by the Senators and a large audience in the galleries. Sir Edward Thornton British Minister, was in the diplomatic gallery, and appeared to be deeply interested. The portion of the message in regard to the school question, taxation of church property, Cuba, our financial affairs, and the condition of the navy especially, attracted the closest attention.

On motion of Mr. Conkling the message was ordered to lay on the table and be printed. He also offered the usual resolution to print extra copies. Referred to the Committee on Printing.

[The message will be found on the fourth page.]

The President *pro tempore* laid before the Senate the reports of the various Cabinet officers and the Comptroller of the Currency, which were ordered printed and lay on the table.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Personal Explanation.

Mr. BLAINE, rising to a personal explanation, said that in the debate of yesterday on the Louisiana question he had expressed the hope that the other side of the House would not in an incidental way attempt to reopen and dishonor the agreement made last year. Some person had applied the word "dishonor" had been used with some degree to impute it to the gentleman from Mississippi (Lamar) as a personal affront. He had used it only in the sense of nullifying and disregarding, and not with the remotest idea of offering an affront to that gentleman.

Mr. LAMAR said he had not heard a word which the gentleman from Maine was reported as having said, and he accepted the explanation in the generous spirit in which it was made.

Drawing Seats.

The House then, on motion of Mr. Randall, took a recess till one o'clock, the hour fixed for the drawing of seats. At that hour the recess was further extended to give members absent on the committee to wait upon the President (Messrs. Cox, Knott and Blaine) an opportunity to be present and select their seats when their nominal call is called. The courtesy of allowing the oldest continuous member to select a seat in advance of the drawing was extended to Mr. Kelly. A member was also permitted to select a seat for Mr. Stephens, of Georgia.

At 1:15 Mr. COX reported that the committee had waited upon the President, and that a communication in writing would be sent to the House forthwith.

The Speaker submitted the question whether the House would draw seats or have the President's message read.

The former course was adopted. A blindfolded page then drew the names of the members from a box, one by one, and the member drawn came from the outside of the bar, and all were congregated, and occupied the seat which he proposed holding for the Congress. The first name drawn was Mr. Whitehouse, and among the first half dozen were Hoar, Ely and King. The Democrats took their seats on the east side, to the right of the Speaker's chair, the side which they have partially occupied for many Congresses. Some, however, selected seats on the western and Republican side of the chamber. Mr. Blaine selected the seat he formerly occupied at the extreme left, resisting an invitation of Mr. Blaine to take a seat near him, and intimating that the aisle occupancy about there was too strong for him. It was twenty minutes past one o'clock when the drawing was completed.

The President's Message.

As soon as order was restored the President's message was received and presented to the House, and immediately read by the Reading Clerk, Mr. Mehaffey. The reading occupied two hours and five minutes. At first the message was listened to with considerable interest and attention, but after passing the portions relating to education, church property and Cuba the attention began to flag. Members gradually retired, so that during the reading of the latter half of the message there were probably not forty members in their seats, and few of those paying the slightest attention. The message was ordered printed.

Contested Seat.

Mr. CAIN presented a petition of W. H. Trescott and others, of South Carolina, with reference to the right of representation of the Third Congressional District of South Carolina, and moved it be referred to the Committee on Elections. So referred.

The House then adjourned till Friday.

MOODY AND SANKEY.

Increased Interest in the Revival Meetings in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, December 7.—Despite the threatening aspect of the weather this morning, a large congregation assembled at the Tabernacle Depot to hear the Word of God as spoken by the revivalists. The attendance completely filled the enclosed portion of the depot, while the stage was well filled with members of the choir and clergymen. The interest in the proceedings was not a whit diminished. On the contrary, there was a general evidence of increased enthusiasm and a large number of working people, who concluded to spend their day's recess there. Attested interest is felt by this class of society, who, although, containing many professing Christians, do not usually attend religious services. At the evening meeting the building was more than half filled. To-night a special train brought a delegation of four hundred persons from Harrisburg, Mount Joy, Elizabethtown and other places. Mr. Sankey sang the hymn "For Dark is the Night," prefacing the singing with the remark that during the great fire in Chicago he and others escaped to the lake, and while in a boat he sang this hymn. Quite a number attended the inquiry meeting. A parents' prayer meeting was held after the dismissal of the congregation.

THE WEATHER.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER,
UNITED STATES SIGNAL SERVICE,
PITTSBURGH, PA., Dec. 7, 1875.

Local Observations.

Time.	Bar.	Ther.	Humidt.	Wind.	Weather.
7 A. M.	29.400	42	91	E.	Cloudy.
2 P. M.	29.351	54	79	S.	Lt. Rain
9 P. M.	29.367	47	92	E.	Lt. Rain

Mean Barometer, 29.396.
Mean Thermometer, 47.
Highest Thermometer, 54.
Lower Thermometer, 35.
Rainfall, .17.

L. A. WELSH,
Sergt., Sig. Service, U. S. A.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
UNITED STATES SIGNAL SERVICE,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 1875—1 A. M.

Probabilities for To-day.

For Tennessee, the Ohio Valley and lake region, rising barometer, colder northwest winds, cloudy and clearing weather, with occasional rain or snow.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 7, 1875.

Savings Bank Suspended.

A German uptown savings bank has suspended. There are about 4,800 depositors. The liabilities are about $830,000. The officers expect to pay at least eighty cents on the dollar.

Tweed's Case.

Hagan, one of the officers with Tweed on the afternoon of his escape, was before the Grand Jury yesterday. Warden Dunham has been suspended by Sheriff O'Connor from his functions as Warden of Ludlow street jail.

Libel Suit.

Trenor W. Park has begun a libel suit against the *Tribune* to recover $100,000 for damages done to his character in the recent comments on the Emma mine business.

LATEST FOREIGN ADVICES.

Excitement in Madrid Over President Grant's Message.

Steamship Disaster on the English Coast.

Over Fifty Lives Lost

The Archbishop of Cologne Summoned to Resign.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Steamship Disaster.

LONDON, December 7.—Lloyd's agent at Rochester reports this morning that a boat has come ashore in that vicinity from the steamer Deutschland, from Bremen December 4th for New York. The boat contained one man and the dead bodies of two others. The man reports that the Deutschland is aground in the North Sea. The two men perished from exposure, having been in the boat thirty-eight hours. The vessel struck a sand bank, and he believes she is totally lost with all her passengers and crew. They numbered one hundred and fifty. One boat left the ship before that occupied by the survivor and his companions. The fate of that boat is unknown. The name of one man who died in the boat is Forsenstein.

Later.

Captain Brinkenstein and part of the passengers and crew of the steamship Deutschland have just landed at Harwich. It is supposed that about fifty of the passengers and crew were drowned. The Deutschland is now on Long Sands, still further toward the Essex shore than to Kentish Knock. Two tugs and a life boat have proceeded to the scene of disaster. Kentish Knock Sands are a few miles off the mouth of the Thames.

LONDON, December 7.—The agents of the North German Lloyd steamship line state the steamer Deutschland had two first cabin, twenty-four second-class and ninety-seven steerage passengers.

The commander of the British man-of-war Penlope telegraphs from Harwich to the Admiralty that fifty lives have been lost. The remainder of the passengers and crew have landed at Harwich, where they are under the care of the German Consul.

Quartermaster August, in his statement, says that the name of the Captain of the Deutschland was Busius. The steamer left Bremen on Sunday morning, and struck the Knock on Sunday evening. Every effort was made to get her off, but in vain. The sea washed over the ship, carrying away much of her gear. The Captain kept very cool. Immediately after the ship struck he ordered the life boats to be distributed among the passengers and crew. The next morning, as it was thought the ship was about to break up, an order was given to lower the boats. August and two seamen were detailed to man one of the boats, which capsized twice in lowering. When she righted they drifted away from the steamer. They tried to pull back, but could not. A heavy snow storm prevailed and the weather was piercing cold. His two companions perished from exposure. August says the crew numbered one hundred and thirty. When he last saw the steamer endeavors were being made to launch all the boats.

The passengers reported missing so far are J. Grossmann, first cabin; Ludwig Heerman, Maria Forster, Emil Hock, Bertha Fundling, five nuns, Trocopi Kadolkoff, and G. Lundgruen, second cabin.

[Special to the N. Y. Herald.]

LONDON, December 7.—The Deutschland was wrecked on Saturday morning, and all day Monday and until Tuesday morning, although they were seen from Harwich, it was impracticable to send assistance until the gale moderated. At four o'clock this morning the tug Liverpool brought in fifty-seven persons, including all the officers except the fourth. One child died on board the tug. The number of dead bodies in the steamer's cabin was fifty, and others are probably in boats which are missing. So far only about fifty-four are known to be saved. Beck, the quartermaster, is apparently dying, his swollen, blackened appearance indicating frost bite. His statement was given with great difficulty. He said his boat was attached to the ship by ropes, which broke, and the boat fell to leeward. As there were no oars, it was impossible to return. So a sail was rigged, and the boat drove before the wind all day and the following night. The steerage passenger, named Foster, who was lightly clad, and without shoes and stockings, soon died, and the seaman shortly after. At five o'clock this morning the boat was perceived by an artilleryman on duty at Fort Sheerness, and Beck was rescued.

The Captain says distress signals were observed from the light vessels and coastguard stationed at Harwich during Monday evening, but owing to the fierceness of the gale it was impossible to send assistance. "No life boat was to be had and no other could live.

Still Later.

The scenes at the wreck on the arrival of the tug defies description. Strong men, women and children were clinging to the rigging, from which many had been washed away. Some were in their last struggles. In the cabin were seen the corpses of ladies and children just as they retired. One hundred and forty seven persons were taken off by the tug, with scanty clothing. Arriving at Harwich, the survivors were taken charge of by the German Consul, Oliver John Williams, who provided them with food, clothing and lodging, and were provided to rest after 36 hours of exposure to the most severe frost experienced this present winter.

According to the Lloyds, the Deutschland had two first, twenty-four second class, and ninety-seven steerage passengers, and a crew of seventy-five, but others say more.

The following passengers rescued have been landed at Harwich: First cabin—Wm. Leick and Carl Dietrich Meyer; second cabin—Theodore Tilman, Helen Schem, T. Sayer, Hermana Seathan, France Hann, Alfred Weelinff, Adolph Hermann and Anna Pitzhold.

The following are among the missing: First cabin—T. Grossman; second cabin—Ludwig Herrmann, Maria Forster, Emil Hack, Bertha Fundling, Theodor Fundling, Barbara Hilkenschmidt, Henrico Fassbander, Searbelda Reenkaber, Aurea Radjura, Brigilla Tambard, Procopi Kadolkoff, and L. Lindgreen.

The Mine Explosion.

The work of recovering the bodies from the Swaithe main colliery is still progressing. The number of fatalities is now put down at one hundred and thirty. The entire district is still greatly excited, as it will be some days yet before the number of dead can be exactly ascertained, a fall of a portion of the roof of the mine having occurred, which obstructs the work of the explorers.

A Disabled Steamer.

Advices are received to the effect that the steamer Anglia, of the Anchor Line, from New York for Glasgow, has recently been seen with the loss of her propeller, proceeding under sail. Two tugs have been dispatched to her assistance.

SPAIN.

Soldiers Frozen to Death.

MADRID, December 7.—The weather is very cold in the North, and some soldiers have been frozen to death.

Excitement Over President Grant's Message.

[Special to N. Y. Herald.]

MADRID, December 7.—The message of President Grant occasions great excitement. A complete summary of the Cuban section was cabled to Senor Callantes, Minister for Foreign affairs, and an informal meeting of the Ministry was held to-night. Its great verbosity startles the Spanish statesmen. A day's delay in sending in the message is regarded suspiciously, and the belligerency disclaimer will be variously discussed in to-morrow's newspapers. Duplicity will probably be charged, and the ultra organs intimate threats of Carlist recognition. The newspapers are issuing extras, and the streets are crowded. The excitement is equal to that shown over the Virginius affair.

CHINA.

Legations Abroad.

LONDON, December 7.—A private telegram from Pekin says the arrangements for sending Chinese legations abroad are proceeding. Ministers have been appointed to the United States, Peru and Japan.

The Margary Murder.

HONG KONG, Dec. 7.—Placards censuring the arrangements made by the Chinese Government with Wade, the British Minister, were posted in Pekin, but were immediately removed by the authorities. Native officials are uneasy in regard to the recent negotiations. Information implicating the Molein authorities in the murder of Mr. Margary have been received.

GERMANY.

The Archbishop of Cologne Summoned to Resign.

LONDON, December 7.—A special from Berlin says that the Prussian Government has formally summoned the Archbishop of Cologne to resign. This is preliminary to legal proceedings to depose him.

Count von Arnim.

LONDON, December 7.—A Berlin special says Count von Arnim has refused to obey the summons to attend trial for treason on the plea of ill health.

TURKEY.

Count Andrassy's Scheme of Reform.

LONDON, December 8.—The Prussian *Cross Gazette* reports that Turkey has given her assent to Count Andrassy's scheme of reform.

FRANCE.

Bonapartist Plotting.

PARIS, December 7.—The Bonapartists are plotting a coalition with the members of the Republican party to effect the overthrow of the Government.

THE LATEST NEWS.

Condensed Telegrams from All Quarters.

—There will be no changes of importance in the Senate committees.

—Charles D. Jacob was elected Mayor of Louisville yesterday, by 900 majority.

—The Indiana State Convention on the proposed Soldiers' Monument met in Indianapolis on Tuesday.

—John L. Smith, ex-member of Congress from Ohio, has been appointed Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

—John G. Thompson has resigned his position as Commissioner of Railroads and Telegraphs of Ohio, to take effect at once.

—Orders were received at the Portsmouth Navy Yard on Tuesday to suspend work on the Ticonderago, which was being fitted for sea.

—General Babcock left Washington yesterday for Chicago, to appear before the court of inquiry detailed to investigate the charges against him.

—Judge Lawrence, of New York, has denied, motion to vacate the orders of arrest against the members of the firm of Duncan, Sherman & Co. in the suit of Rothing Bros.

—The Grand Jury of Lexington, Ky., has indicted the magistrates of that city for malfeasance in office, in voting themselves five dollars per day, instead of three, as required by law.

—A dispatch from San Diego, Cal., says two Mexicans engaged in the recent attack, robbery and murder at Campo, and captured by the authorities, were taken from the guard by the citizens, and hung.

—J. W. Fretzger, editor of the Pittston (Pa.) *Comet*, convicted of libel upon Jules Henri, has been sentenced by Judge Hardin to pay a fine of fifty dollars and seven months' imprisonment in the county jail.

—The District Attorney at St. Paul has entered a *nolle prosequi* in all the numerous indictments against Chas. McIlrath, late State Auditor, for alleged malfeasance in office and misappropriation of public funds.

—The President of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad denies a report published in New York papers, that the company is on the verge of bankruptcy, stating that after paying the December interest on bonds there is still a large balance in the treasury.

—The Arkansas Legislature has passed a bill donating all the State lands lying in the counties in the northwestern part of the State for the building of a railroad from some point on the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad in Missouri *via* Fayetteville, Ark., to a point on the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad at or near Ozark.

—For the first time in many months all the gambling houses in Cincinnati were closed on Tuesday night, the police having been busily engaged in arresting all loitering gamblers in the city that are known to them. It is said energetic efforts are being made by the municipal authorities for the suppression of gambling in that city.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, December 7, 1875.

The Claim Against Venezuela.

It appears from the diplomatic correspondence accompanying the President's message that in July last the Venezuelan Government paid the American Minister £12,366 sterling, being funds deposited for the United States claimants under the awards of the mixed commission, and offers monthly payments in the future.

The Whisky Frauds.

ST. LOUIS, December 7.—In the United States District Court to-day Col. D. N. Munn, Supervisor of Internal Revenue of Illinois, appeared to answer the indictments found against him for complicity in the whisky frauds. Col. Munn asked for further time to consult his attorneys before making his plea, which was granted, the District Attorney making no objection. Col. Munn being under $10,000 bonds to answer a similar indictment in the United States Court at Springfield, Ill., no additional bond was required here. No time was set for the trial.

Marine News.

QUEENSTOWN, December 7.—The steamship Parthian, from Boston, has arrived out.

NEW YORK, December 7.—The steamship City of New York, from Liverpool, has arrived.

NEW YORK, December 7.—Arrived—The steamer Bolivia, from Glasgow.

NEW YORK, December 7.—The steamer Frisia, from Hamburg, has arrived.

SOUTHAMPTON, December 7.—The steamer Neckar, from New York, has arrived.

HOME NEWS.

Mortuary.

Dr. Snively, Physician to the Board of Health, reports 45 deaths in this city for the week ending Saturday last. Twenty three were males and 22 females; 15 married, 28 single, widowers 1, and not stated 1. Forty-five cases of infectious diseases were reported, of which 7 were smallpox, 5 measles, 20 scarlet fever, 8 diptheria, and 5 typhoid fever.

Heavy Land Slide.

A heavy land slide came down on the PanHandle Railroad, between Temperanceville and Saw Mill Run, about eleven o'clock last night, entirely blocking up the road. The passengers on the train due in the city shortly after that time, had to be transferred to a train on this side of the slide, and the outward bound train that left the city about two o'clock this morning, went out on the Pittsburgh and Cleveland road.

A Fatal Fall.

On last Thursday night as a man named John Fahl who resided on the Spring Hill road, Seventh ward, Allegheny, was on his way home, he stepped over the embankment at a point where the railing guard was broken down, and fell a distance of sixteen feet. He was taken home, and it was not thought that his injuries were serious, but during Monday night he died. The Coroner was notified and held an inquest yesterday afternoon, a verdict being obtained in accordance with the facts. The deceased was forty-three years old, a shoemaker, and leaves a wife and one child.

ALLEGHENY STREET AFFAIRS.

West End Avenue—The Vacation of Bidwell Street.

At the meeting last evening of the Street Committee of Allegheny Councils the profile of the grade of West End avenue was presented and laid over until the next regular meeting, on the 16th inst., in order to give the property holders an opportunity to examine the proposed change.

The resolution adopted at a recent joint meeting of the Committee and P., Ft. W. & C. R. R. officials, concerning an article of agreement between the city and the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad Company, relative to the vacation of Bidwell street, was approved, provided said company agrees to erect a board fence eight feet high along the entire length of the new street which is to be opened from Allegheny to Washington avenues. The City Solicitor was instructed to draw up the agreement, and to insert a proviso that the railroad company shall pay the assessment for the opening of the new street within ninety days from the date of the approval of the report of the Board of Viewers.

Adjourned.

THE PUDDLERS.

The Prospects Indicate Another Lockout.

The puddlers held another conference meeting yesterday afternoon, with the committee of the Iron Association, to take action upon the proposed reduction of fifty cents per ton. The conference, like the others that have been held, was a very long one, held with closed doors, and its results abortive. Although reporters and all outsiders were strictly excluded, it has transpired that the puddlers will only contended for $5 per ton, while the manufacturers are equally determined not to pay more than $4.50.

The conference finally ended with no better prospects for a compromise than when it began, and the indications at present all point to a lockout at an early day. If this occurs, of course the puddlers will suffer most and great distress will inevitably attend them; and not only to them will the stoppage of work bring destitution, but to hundreds of others who will be thrown out of employment. It is, indeed, to be regretted that in the present state of trade such a suicidal course should be determined upon.

A Slight Exposure in Bad Weather, when the system is out of order, often brings on a Stubborn Cold; the attending Cough irritates the Lungs, and if not properly treated frequently develops a tendency to a tuberculous condition. To avoid this danger, those troubled with Colds should resort at once to Dr. Jayne's Expectorant, which soon loosens and eradicates Coughs, soothes and heals inflamed parts, and removes all anxiety by setting the patient on the way to good health once more. MWS.

THE COURT RECORD.

A Complete Report of the Proceedings in the Courts Yesterday.

United States District Court.

(*Before Judge McCandless.*)

Isaac S. Little & Co., bankrupts, Wyoming county. Petition for an injunction against George Pratt et al., refused.

Owsten & Sowers, bankrupts. Order made for the sale of certain oil stocks, &c.

Whitmore Bros., bankrupts, Luzerne county. Report of Register Willard on the petition of Theodore F. Hunt received, and the assignee directed to pay the petitioner the amount of his lien, $4,876 30.

Allegheny Valley Railroad Company et al. vs. Wm. McKenny & Son, bankrupts, Allegheny City. On petition of creditors said debtors adjudged bankrupts, and the matter referred to Register Shafer.

E. N. Coon, bankrupt, Fayette county. The bankrupt having complied with all the requirements of the law is discharged from his debts.

Robt. B. Edgar, bankrupt, Beaver county. Petition of assignee presented for leave to discharge certain liens, and the 22d inst. fixed for a hearing on the motion.

U. S. Circuit Court.

(*Before Judge McKennan.*)

The case of Cruse vs. the Kittanning Coal Company, which has been on trial for several days, was concluded yesterday afternoon, the jury under instructions of Court returning a verdict for defendant. These instructions were that the only question in the case was one at law. The defendants purchased the property when it was sold for taxes, they had remained in undisputed possession of the same for five years, which fact was admitted by the plaintiff, and as under the statute of 1804 five years' possession gives a clear title to such property, there was nothing for the jury to do but decide for plaintiff.

The case of Marshall, assignee, vs. Grubbs et ux, was taken up.

H. A. Miller, Esq., of Franklin, Venango county, was admitted to practice in this Court, on motion of Wm. Blakely, Esq.

Common Pleas Court No. 1.

(*Before Judges Stowe and Collier.*)

The Atlas works vs. Norman & Updegraff, previously reported. Verdict for defendant.

B. K. Jameson & Co. vs. A. Lane. Verdict for defendant.

H. E. Pickert & Co. vs. the Duquesne Bank. Verdict for defendant.

George Willard et ux. et al. vs James Graham et al. Verdict for defendant. An action in ejectment.

Trial List for To-Day.

Dickson, President vs. Richey.
Noble vs. Noble.
Hermann, in trust, vs. Allegheny Trust Company.
Harding & Bros. vs. Howard.
Armstrong vs. Boyd.
Stoner vs. Napier.
Black vs. Medill.
Orbich & Co. vs. Humboldt Fire Insurance Co.
Beck, for use, vs. Crede et al.
Bayne, administrator, vs. Graham.
Calhoun & Co. vs. Starg, et al.
" vs. McKee, et al.
" vs. Gregg, et al.
" vs. Mitheny, et al.
Cluley vs. Shidle, et al.
Cluley vs. Same.

Common Pleas Court No. 2.

(*Before Judges Ewing and Kirkpatrick.*)

Thomas Robertson vs. Louis Smith and D. S. McKnight, previously reported. Verdict for plaintiff for 6% cents and costs.

Alfred Patterson and John B. Fairley, assignees in bankruptcy of Louis Staib vs. Wm. Louis. Verdict for plaintiff.

Adam Rush vs. Chas Yoner. On trial.

Trial List for To-day.

Hatch et al. vs. Graver.
Weitham vs. McPhillany.
Hemn vs. McPhillany.
O'Hanlon vs. Barry.
Voight, Mahool & Co. vs. Stewart.
Taggart vs. Warner.
The Pittsburgh Steel Casting Company vs. Reed.
Springer vs. Straw & Co.
Johnson vs. The City of Allegheny.
Muller vs. Chiskahake.
Foster et al. vs. The Nation Trust Co.
Wier & Gibson vs. Schmidt.
Reed vs. Bell et al.
Reed vs. Altvater.
West vs. Hinley et al.
Logan vs. The Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company.

Criminal Court.

(*Before Judge Sterrett.*)

A *nolle pros* was allowed in each of the two cases of James Harrison, indicted for assault and battery. The defendant paid the costs and the prosecutor consented to the *nolle pros.*

A *nolle pros.* was allowed in the case of John K. Hack and Joseph Hack, Jr., indicted for false pretense. The defendants paid the costs.

Catharine Hooley, indicted for nuisance in keeping a ferocious dog. The defendant was acquitted, but directed to pay costs.

Samuel Rosenberger was acquitted of a charge of false pretense, the prosecutor, H. L. McFarland, to pay the costs.

Marion A. McMillan was acquitted of a charge of perjury, and the prosecutor, John Rhines, ordered to pay the costs.

Alex. Patton, charged with assault and battery, was acquitted, the prosecutor, Mrs. Mary Ann Streckhousen, to pay the costs.

John Campbell, charged with false pretense. Verdict of not guilty, and the prosecutor, John W. De Camp, to pay the costs.

In the case of Mary A. Johnson, charged with assault and battery, a *nolle pros.* was allowed on payment of costs by defendant.

Wilson Stewart plead guilty to a charge of aggravated assault and battery, and was sentenced to pay six and a quarter cents and costs, and go to the Work House for three months.

Jury Commissioner Strain was before the Court in regard to the alleged irregularities in drawing the jurors. His testimony threw no new light on the case.

Trial List for To-day.

Commonwealth vs.	
John Freewald,	Jeremiah Carroll,
Margaret Riley (2),	Chas Decker,
John Brackins,	A. Linheiser,
A. H. Holmes,	H. F. Phipps,
Geo. W. Parks,	Joseph Wilt,
Jackson Stilley,	Edward Neil et al.,
Wm. Autoine,	Jacob Steiner,
Robert Brown,	Christian Kratt,
John Cronin (2),	John Siefert.

Court Brevities.

CONSTABLE JOHN D. HOERR, yesterday, commenced suit against the Pittsburgh *Leader* for libel, on account of an article in last Sunday's issue, under the head "Took the Butter Dish." Damages claimed, $5,000.

IN the Court of Common Pleas No. 1 today, the case of Dickson, President of the Nation Trust Company, for use, vs. David Richey, will be taken up. The action is on the bond of Robt. Grier, late cashier of that institution.

THE jury in the case of Shafer vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad came in yesterday, after being out four days, with a verdict in favor of the plaintiffs for $3,000. As there has been considerable interest in reference to the case, we give herewith the names of the jurors and their ages: David Sankey, New Castle, Lawrence county, age 65; Henry Shaffer, Allegheny City, Allegheny county, aged 59; D. B. Miller, Union county, aged 36; Robert Patterson, Beaver, Beaver county, aged 73; John Templeton, Washington county, aged 50; A. H. Allison, Indiana county, aged 32; Joseph Grubb, Crawford county, aged 75; Joel Truesdell, Washington county, aged 53; A. C. Smith, Columbia county, aged 49; K. S. McKay, Crawford county, aged 51; K. S. Lidwith, Green county, aged 54; William Beal, Beaver county, aged 38. When the jury first went out a ballot was taken which showed 10 to 2 in favor of the plaintiff. Messrs. Miller and Smith were the minority. Finally the amount of $3,000 for the plaintiff was agreed upon and so reported.

FINANCIAL.

Approval of Collector's Bonds—Balances Due City, &c.

The Allegheny Finance Committee met last night in the office of Treasurer Macferron. Mr. N. H. Voeghtly presided. The bonds of E. Johnson, of the Fifth ward; G. W. Lyon, of the First ward; R. Dilworth, of the Second ward; John Ogden, of the Third ward; John Dalzell, of the Fourth ward; G. Fisher, of the Eighth ward, and M. Woods, of the Ninth ward, who were appointed collectors of delinquent taxes for 1875, were approved. The Treasurer's November pay roll, amounting to $168.31, was ordered to be cashed. James Nichol was appointed collector of the second assessment of water rents for 1875. Controller Brown reported that $30,000 worth of Park bonds had been redeemed and cancelled. He also submitted his usual monthly statement of the accounts of the various city officers, which a press of other matter obliges us to omit. The recapitulation is as follows:

Total in hands of collectors	$ 547 76
Total in Butler on December 1	31,620 41
From collectors of delinquent taxes	67 30
" Clarion " " "	75 40
" Venango " " "	23 27
" McKean " " "	15 21
Total	$32,168 17

The resolution offering a reward of $500 for the apprehension and conviction of the person or persons who set fire to the Treasurer's office a few weeks ago, was ordered to be printed and reported to Councils with an affirmative recommendation.

A Useful Art.

Housekeepers everywhere in both cities are referred to the card of Mr. John Gillespie, who cleans chimneys, sets grates, repairs flues and puts in order furnaces, fireplaces, &c. We have had years of experience of his skill and success, and regard his art as one of the most useful of the useful arts.

BREVITIES.

Paragraphic Pencilings of Passing Events.

····Allegheny Councils will hold a regular meeting to-morrow evening.

····Depotmaster Butler narrowly escaped being caught between a backing train and a bumping block yesterday.

····The fourth soiree of Company E, Duquesne Grays will be given to-morrow evening at Masonic Hall, in Allegheny.

····The Allegheny Board of School Controllers failed to get a quorum last night, and accordingly transacted no business.

····The remains of Captain Wilson Carr arrived in the city yesterday from Baltimore, and were enterred in the Allegheny Cemetry.

····There is a rumor afloat that the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh has been divided and that Bishop Domenec has been displaced by Bishop Lynch.

····Dave Hall was transferred from the jail to the Work House yesterday, to which place he is sentenced for six months for shooting Constable Hays.

····The Limited Mail train from New York jumped the track this side of Jersey City yesterday, and did not reach this city until a late hour last night.

····Thieves entered the residence of Mr. Devinney, at No. 311 Penn street, on Monday evening, but were frightened away, and took none of the valuables they had collected together.

····The Court of Quarter Sessions yesterday established the township of Springdale out of a portion of East Deer township. The first election for township officers will take place on February 8th next.

····Mr. D. A. Hughes, of Allegheny, has a paper money note for "five dollars and two-thirds of a dollar," issued by the Provincial Convention of Maryland, December 7, 1875. He will send it to the Centennial.

····There will be a grand auction sale at the Homeopathic Charity Fair on Thursday evening, December 9th. The Duquesne Greys are invited by the ladies, and a grand time is expected. Articles of virtu, beauty and value are to be sacrificed. Admission only 25 cents.

····Mary Colville, a book canvasser, alleges that her sub-agent Amelia Lewis, obtained $18 from her by false pretenses by getting her subscribers which afterward could not be found and are said to have existed only in the imagination of the fair Amelia. Amelia, however, says they were bona fide subscribers, and Alderman D. L. Smith, of Allegheny, is investigating the case.

····At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Monongahela Insurance Company, held yesterday, the following gentlemen were elected directors: Wm. A. Caldwell, Wm. Rea, George A. Berry, Robert Dalzell, Wm. Means, James Woodburn, D. S. H. Gilmore, R. H. Palmer, James McCandless, David M. Smith, George W. Dilworth, David McCandless, Charles Atwell, Henry Hays, James A. McDevitt.

AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

Mlle. Zoe last night repeated her performance in "The French Spy." She will appear this evening as *Cynthia, Queen of the Gypsies*, in a new play entitled "Cynthia," which will be its first production in this city.

Library Hall.

Hess' English Opera Company concluded its brief engagement last night, when "The Huguenots" was presented before a very large audience. It met with more success than "The Lily of Killarney," was smoother and gave more satisfaction. Mrs. Seguin and Mr. Castle were in the cast, and strengthened it very materially.

The *Chronicle's* criticism of the opera of the "Lily of Killarney" does the company injustice in charging some of the singers with not being familiar with their lines. The loud talking, mistaken by the *Chronicle* critic and some others in attendance for the applause, proceeded from some fops occupying seats near the stage, and was a source of much annoyance to the performers as well as to those who wished to enjoy the performance, and whose seats happened to be in that vicinity.

Trimble's Varieties.

Among the attractions upon the stage nightly at this theater are the Japanese Satsuma, Little All Right, Harper and Stansill, Ettie Romaine, and Chas. Arizona, all of whom are good.

Yon Bulow.

The sale of seats for the performances at Library Hall on Monday and Wednesday evenings of next week, commences to-morrow morning at Hale's.

Fifth Avenue Theater.

Sam. Sanford's celebrated minstrel troupe opens a week's engagement at this theater next Monday evening. Sanford is a favorite exponent of negro minstrelsy, and will doubtless bring a good company with him.

Robert Emmett.

The Philomathic Circle will present Mrs. M. M. Wardle's tragedy of "Robert Emmett" to-morrow evening at Library Hall. Mrs. Dr. Sadler will appear in a leading role.

Homeopathic Hospital.

The Fair at City Hall, in drawing to a close, is attracting increasing attention and the prospects for the last days are cheering. We understand the management of the Fair has extended an invitation to the Duquesne Grays to attend it in uniform on Thursday evening, as an acknowledgment of their kindness in furnishing the hall.

PRESBYTERIAN CENTENNIAL.

The Opening Meeting Last Night—The Organization—Dr. Jenkin's Address, &c., &c.

Last evening the inital meeting of the series to take place in this city this week, was held in the First Presbyterian church, (Dr. Scovel's.) The object, as has been announced, is to celebrate the Centennial of Presbyterianism in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. The secular history of the church since the commencement of the labors of Rev. John McMillan, D. D., one hundred years ago will be recounted.

The first thing on the programme last evening was the organization. This was effected by electing the following officers:

President—Rev. Charles Beatty, D. D., of Steubenville, Ohio.

Vice Presidents—Rev. W. D Howard, D. D., Pittsburgh; Rev. George Hill, Blairsville; Rev. Loyal Young, D. D., West Virginia; Rev. John Robinson, D. D., Ashland, Ohio.

Secretaries—Rev. John S. McConnell and Robert Carothers.

Following the organization came the address of Rev. David H. Junkin, D. D., on the topic: "John McMillan—the Gospel He Preached, and Its Influence on the Civilization of Western Pennsylvania." The address was one displaying much care in its preparation, and a keen analysis of the subject.

Upon the conclusion of the address the following programme for to-day's exercises was announced, after which the meeting adjourned:

Morning, 9:30 to 12 o'clock—1 A half hour of devotional exercises. 2. "Secular History," by Hon. James Veech. 3. "Pittsburgh as it was a Century Ago," by Rev. Wm. Darlington.

Afternoon, 1:30 o'clock—"Ecclesiastical History, and Biographical Sketches of McMillan's Co-Laborers," by Rev. S. J. M. Eaton, D.D., of Franklin, Pa.

Evening, 7:30 o'clock—"Religious History, with Especial Reference to the Great Revivals," by Rev. Aaron Williams, D. D., of Leetsdale.

A large number of the delegates had arrived last evening, but more are expected to-day; as all the delegates in the city had not reported last evening, the entire number present could not be ascertained.

Oil Operations.

The Oil City *Derrick* publishes a carefully prepared statement of operations in the oil regions, from which we learn that for the month of November the total number of wells completed in the Butler and Armstrong district was 25, with an aggregate daily yield of 704 barrels; in the Clarion district, 31 wells, yielding 335 barrels; Venango and Warren, 26 wells, yielding 131 barrels; and McKean and Cattaraugus, 5 wells, with an average yield of 44 barrels—summing up as follows:

Wells finished in November	87	
" " " October	72	
Increase in November	15	
Aggregate yield of Nov. wells	1,274	bbls
" " " Oct. wells	1,172	"
Increase in November	102	"
Average yield of Nov. wells	14½	"
" " " Oct. wells	25	"
Decrease in November	10½	"
Dry holes in November	19	
" " " October	17	
Increase in November	2	
Wells 10 barrels or less in Nov.	34	
" " " " " Oct.	16	
Increase in November	18	

The same paper also gives the following as a summary of the present scope of developments of the oil field from Limestone to Great Belt City:

	Wells.	Rigs.
Total in Butler on December 1	67	30
" Clarion " " "	75	40
" Venango " " "	23	27
" McKean " " "	15	21
Grand total December 1	180	118
" " November 1	170	84
Increase in November	8	34
Total wells and rigs December 1st		298
Wells built this month in Butler		31
" " " " Clarion		45
" " " " Venango		18
" " " " McKean		7

Wells likely to be finished in December..101

Housekeepers would find their Biscuit, Cakes, &c., much improved by using Marvin's Self-Raising flour,

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OFFICIAL PAPER
Of Pittsburgh, Allegheny City and Allegheny County.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1875.

PETROLEUM at Antwerp 29¼.

BONDS at Frankfort, new 5s, 99¾.

GOLD closed in New York yesterday at 114¼.

THERE is more spirit and life in the movement looking to the improvement of the Ohio river than has existed for many years. JOHN F. DRAVO is the leading spirit in this movement, and under his auspices the Chamber of Commerce has set this subject apart for consideration at its next meeting. We are cognizant of the fact that this enterprise must be pushed with great energy if it is brought to the attention of Congress at all. So many schemes will be pressed by lobbyists, that sound public measures need more than ordinary attention.

THE Chamber of Commerce has taken a wise and commendable course relative to the repeal of the bankrupt law. It has called a meeting of citizens to discuss the subject. We know of no better way to meet the necessities of the hour, as regards proper action toward this law, than that proposed. We believe there is a very general disposition to favor the repeal of the law, as working, at the present, injury rather than good to the public. It certainly stimulates, as it stands, dishonest bankruptcies, and hence the desire for its repeal. A proper expression of opinion will inspire free and ready signatures to a petition for the repeal of the law.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President GRANT has given to Congress and the country the lengthiest message he has ever written, and one possessed of a larger interest than any he has heretofore offered. His allusion to our growth as a nation, and to our advancement in science and the arts, is pithy, earnest and eloquent. From this he turns to the school question, as though it were uppermost in his mind, and his language is vigorous and strong. He proposes a constitutional amendment, to be submitted to the Legislatures for ratification, requiring them to maintain Free Schools, and forbidding the teaching of sectarianism, and preventing the diversion of school funds to any other purpose whatever than the public education, by the State, of the children. He also proposes that church property shall be compelled to bear its proportion of taxation, dwelling on the injustice of permitting so large an amount of property, estimated at $1,000,000,000, escape its proper share of taxation.

The President deals more largely and fully with the Cuban question, than it was expected he would. He portrays the terrible strife that has so long devastated the island, and the evil results which, thus far, have attended it. But he does not think the condition of affairs warrants interference on our part, even to the extent of recognizing belligerent rights. He insists that our duty simply requires that we perform our duty as neutrals, as we have done, until the Cubans have established a claim to be regarded as a Government, having all the powers and peculiarities of government at command. Yet he proposes to occupy a position that will permit our offering, at any time, our good offices to the contending parties, to bring about a peaceful settlement to their difficulties.

Our difficulties on the Mexican border are also adverted to, and are regarded as a source of trouble, likely to continue till we have force enough to fully protect that part of our frontier. The several surrounding States, including Venezuela and the Hawaiian Islands, have been brought into more intimate relations, and now are in full enjoyment, the one of restored good will, and the other of reciprocity. The landing of the French telegraphic cable, and the demand made for monopoly privileges, are alluded to, and the course of the President, in refusing to permit the landing until the monopoly features of the affair were abandoned, are detailed at length. The President, while he favors telegraphic intercommunication with other countries, will not permit any company to claim privileges here that are not accorded to our citizens there.

On the subjects of naturalization, expatriation and several kindred themes, the President substantially repeats the views of his last message. The question of specie resumption is, of course, taken up, and Judge KELLY'S 3.65-100 inter-convertible bond plan strongly recommended. The Secretary of the Treasury presents precisely the same view. It is somewhat startling, not to say amusing, to have the President and Treasury Secretary capture the pet idea of the wildest inflationist we have in the country, and make it do duty in the interest of specie resumption. KELLY put forth this idea with a view of expanding the volume of currency, while the President puts it forth for the purpose of contracting it. So of the arguments of KELLY in favor of the cheap interest bond. It is claimed that it will be a popular means of exchange between currency and bond, and so can be made use of to float a larger amount of greenbacks than would otherwise be possible. But this idea is negatived by the President, who proposes to reduce the volume of greenbacks, at the rate of two millions of dollars a month, and substitute the 3.65-100 bonds for them. If the idea is to reach, irrespective of all else, specie payments, the plan is practicable, provided the people choose to take the bonds. They simply serve to substitute an interest bearing for a non-interest bearing currency. The difference will be, the payment of 3.65-100 per cent. interest, where now nothing is paid. This will, of course, serve to put the greenbacks out of the market,—or, by reducing their volume, will lift them to par. Whether it will pay, is the other side of the question. That it can be done, we freely admit; that, being done, it will prove a paying operation, as regards the revival of business, we seriously doubt. Still, we are in the flood of business misfortune, and the trouble is to get out. We have tried experiments, year after year, and another experiment will not seriously damage us. If it doesn't cure, it certainly will not kill.

In noticing the Departmental reports the President dwells on the navy, and states that while no apparent increase of the regular force has been made, the navy has been actually strengthened, and made ready to meet the emergency of an attack by some hostile force. The policy hitherto pursued toward the Indians will, he announces, be continued to the end of his term. He asks that polygamy, as it exists in Utah, may be declared a crime, that it may be punished as such. He also asks Congress to fix the *status* of children, born in polygamy.

The fruit of the Presidential visit to the Territories of Wyoming, Utah and Colorado is seen in the recommendation of such a change in the laws applicable to lands in those regions as will admit of larger tracts being held, where pasturage abounds. The epitome given at the close, begins with a sentence which will probably occasion some comment. The President speaks of this as "the last annual message I will have the honor of transmitting to Congress before my successor is chosen." Of course, it may be said that in the event of a third term he will be his own successor; but a person who has such anticipations does not speak or write in that way. The President has been steadily consistent in the view of not seeking to secure a Third-Term nomination. In the *epitome* alluded to, he emphasizes, more positively than in the beginning of his message, the non-sectarian idea as to public education. He also proposes the bold measure of not enfranchising those who, becoming voters in 1890, shall not be able to read. He does not propose to disfranchise any who are voters, but to compel all who attain their majority at that time to be able to read and write.

Referring to the literary character of the message, it ranks above those of previous years, by the same hand. The tone is elevated, dignified and manly. In scope the message is very comprehensive, and yet all the topics dwelt upon are clearly and concisely treated,—the power of condensed expression, for which the President is noted, occasionally appearing to great advantage. Yet in places there is more freedom and ease of expression, and the style of the President is less condensed and constrained. In tone it is positive, but not aggressive. While addressed in part to a Democratic House, there is not an expression that can be regarded as offensive, unless the anti-sectarian advice, as regards the public schools, is accepted as offensive. There is no phase of the message that is not, in itself, calm and dignified, yet positive and kind. It will rank as, in all respects, the ablest message communicated by President GRANT to Congress, and is worthy of being the closing message of his second term. Its practical qualities will, we think, commend it to the good sense of moderate Democrats, and it will stand as having recommendations of far-reaching importance.

THE TREASURY.

Report of Secretary Bristow.

The Early Resumption of Specie Payments Discussed and Recommended.

Frugality in Administration One of the Most Important Points of a Sound Financial Policy—What the Resumption Act Means—The History of the Greenback—Retiring Bonds—Estimates for the Next Fiscal Year—A General Review of the National Finances.

The Secretary of the Treasury transmitted his report to Congress on Tuesday. It shows a total of ordinary receipts of $284,020,771.41. Premium on sales of coin, $3,979,279.69, making a total, exclusive of loans, of $288,000,051.10. The balance in the Treasury, on the 30th of June last, was $150,731,694.63.—making the total available $438,731,745.75. The total net disbursements for the year were $294,029,329 32. Balance in the Treasury on the 30th of June last, was $140,702,416,41. Thus the net revenues for the year were $288,000,051,10, and the ordinary expenses, including $1,929,829 to British claimants, were $274,623,392.84. From the statement of actual receipts and expenditures for the first quarter to the current fiscal year, and the estimates of the same for the remaining three quarters, based upon appropriation already made, and also on the assumption that Congress will not increase the expenditures by deficiency or other appropriations, it will be seen that, in the judgment of the Department, the revenues will reach the sum of $297,456,145.14, and that the ordinary expenditures will amount to $268,447,543.76. This exhibit gives a surplus revenue of $29,008,601.38. Under existing laws it is estimated that $32,299,692.32 will be required to be provided for the Sinking Fund for this year. If the statement, as here submitted, shall prove to be approximately correct, the revenues will fall short by the amount of $3,285,090.94 of providing for the appropriations made by Congress.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, the estimates aggregate $304,000,000; and the expenditures are estimated at $269,265,000. Thus the surplus revenues will amount to $34,735,000; and the amount estimated to provide for the Sinking Fund is $34,063,377.40. Thus the income of the Government will provide for all of its obligations. It will be observed that the surplus revenues, exclusive of provision for the Sinking Fund, as shown in the statement of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year, were $13,376,638.26, or $1,022,856.38 less than the amount of the reduction of the debt as shown by the statement of the same. The difference between these two statements arises from the difference of dates at which they are made up, as will be seen by a comparison of the items upon the cash in the Treasury at the commencement and close of the fiscal year, and of the item of "interest due and unpaid, and accrued interest to date," which, in the monthly debt statement, is treated as a liability of the Government, precisely as is the principal of the debt, but which is not so considered in the statement of receipts and expenditures.

Frugality in Administration.

The report then adds: Frugality in administration is among the foremost and most important points of a sound financial policy. Faithful collection of the revenue and reduction of expenditures to the lowest point demanded by the necessities of the Government constitute the first duty of those intrusted with making and administering the law. The obligation to adhere strictly to this duty has peculiar force while the public indebtedness is large and the industries of the country are suffering from financial depression. Rigid economy at such a time must lead to two important results—first, advancement of the credit of the Government throughout the financial world, and hence ability to refund the debt at a lower rate of interest, second, and by no means least of importance, greater willingness on the part of the people to bear the burden of taxation, when they see that their Government, like themselves, is reducing expenditures to the lowest practicable point, and applying the revenue received from them to its necessary and legitimate purposes. The general depression of business which followed the era of inflation and extravagance, through which we have just passed, has made it necessary that individuals, associations, and corporations should reduce their expenditures to the minimum; and, having done so, the taxpayers have a right to demand that the Government shall do likewise. While the interest on the public debt, and all other National obligations, must be promptly met, there are many points at which it is believed that considerable reduction of appropriations can properly be made; and the Secretary invites critical examination of all the estimates submitted to Congress. Increase of public expenditures in time of great prosperity and extravagance is accomplished by an easy process; but a corresponding reduction when the reverse comes can be brought about only by the closest vigilance and most determined resistance to every appeal for appropriations not required by the existing necessities of Government.

No appropriation of money should be made without reference to the probable amount of revenue to accrue within the year in excess of existing obligations and liabilities.

The Sinking Fund.

The law bearing on the Sinking Fund is then stated, and the obligations of the Secretary under it marked out. The amount required for the Sinking Fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, was $31,096,545. Of this amount $1,096,500 six per cent. five-twenty bonds were purchased at the rate of $99.87⅛ for each hundred dollars in bonds; and on the 11th day of March, 1875, a call was made for $30,000,000 of the same class of bonds. This call matured on the 11th day of June, 1875, which, being so near the end of the fiscal year, a part of the bonds named in the notice were not presented for redemption during that year. Of the amount so called only $24,073,900 were presented for payment before the 30th day of June. Therefore, the amount which appears upon the books of the Treasury as actually applied to the Sinking Fund within the past fiscal year is $25,170,400.

For the current fiscal year it is estimated that $32,140,914 must be applied to the fund. To meet this requirement a call was made on the 1st day of September for $8,000,000 six per cent. five-twenty bonds, and on the 15th day of November a further call for $5,000,000 bonds of the same class. The balance necessary to complete the total amount for this year will be called from time to time in such a manner as to cause the least disturbance of the market, and it is hoped that the whole amount will be presented for payment within the year.

The Secretary announces the completion of the work of refunding the $500,000,000 of 6 per cents into 5 per cent. bonds, thus saving $5,000,000 of interest annually; but urges that in order to make the 4½ per cents negotiable, the time for which they are to be used must be extended to thirty years from the date of issue.

Resumption of Specie Payment.

We give what the Secretary says of the resumption of specie payments in full, this constituting the important part of his report:

The depression of business and general contraction of values which followed the financial panic of 1873 have continued to a greater or less degree in all parts of the country. Similar financial convulsions have occurred in other countries, and their effects are now being felt to a degree as great, perhaps, as in this country. These disastrous disturbances have been brought about in our own country by overtrading, over-credit, and excessive enterprise of a speculative character, stimulated by too great abundance of promises to pay, existing in the form of currency not based upon, or convertible into, the only actual money of the world and of the Constitution, gold and silver. Other commercial countries which have suffered and are now suffering from financial depression, have felt the influence of like causes, while in some of them the temptation to carry prosperous times to excess has, as has often happened before, led to over-production, and that superfluity of trade and credit which must, inevitably, sooner or later, be followed by a collapse, and a corresponding period of depression. Although there are gratifying indications of increased activity in certain branches of business in the United States, it must be admitted that confidence has not yet been restored to the extent necessary to bring about a general revival, or to put the trade and industries of the country upon a basis of activity and permanent prosperity. Nor is it reasonable to expect that this will be done until there shall be a nearer approach to resumption of specie payment, and consequent improvement in the character of the currency. The constant disturbance of exchange and fluctuation of values, the uncertainties of business, the want of confidence between individuals, corporations, and communities which all experience proves to be the inevitable result of the use of a medium of exchange possessing no intrinsic value, representing no considerable amount of labor in its production, and not convertible into that which is recognized as money throughout the commercial world, are considerations which should claim the attention of every thoughtful representative of the people. However rapid may be our increase in population, wealth, and material strength, we cannot take the rank as a commercial or business people to which we are entitled to by superior natural advantages, and the productive energies of our population, or attract to us the surplus capital of the world, so long as we have fluctuating standards of value, and such uncertainty in our fiscal legislation as makes the assembling of Congress and our frequent elections occasions of anxiety and apprehension not only with the holders of our securities abroad, but with business men at home.

Great Britain has kept the value of her pound sterling substantially unvarying for two hundred years, and, in consequence of this steadiness, it has become the basis of the transactions, not only of British commerce and trade, but of all the world. In all civilized countries Government negotiations with foreign money-lenders are made upon this basis; and, as a general rule, the the only foreign bills current all over the world are those which are expressed in pounds sterling. London, which commercial city thus becomes the great centre where a true measure of property and debts can be found; and hence, the commerce of the world revolves around it, and pays a tribute to its commercial standard. With an unsteady and varying currency, having no fixed relation to the money of the world, but always much below its par value, we can never obtain that commercial independence to which our great resources and active population entitle us.

Who are Interested.

Every branch of industry and all classes of people are alike interested in the restoration of a sound and stable circulating medium, the laborer and producer no less than the merchant, bondholder and banker. The present unequal and fluctuating currency oppresses and injures laborers and producers, who constitute a great majority of our people, far more than it affects speculators dealers in money. The difference between gold and our paper currency is a margin upon which experienced money-dealers do business, and it is this that gives the opportunity for artificial combinations whereby values are increased or reduced at pleasure. The purchasing power of the currency is increased or diminished by the manipulations of large operators united for that purpose, and producers and laborers are often made to suffer, without effective power of resistance. Restoration of a sound and unvarying currency would better the relative wages with more constant employment, because the value of labor, as of that which it produces, will be measured by a more certain standard; and, with the return of confidence, there must come activity, prosperity, larger markets, and greater demand, which, as both reason and experience prove, do not tend to lower wages, or make employment less certain.

The claim that the large issue of inconvertible paper currency has been beneficial to producers is, perhaps, sufficiently disproved by reference to the reports of sales of leading articles of produce, such as wheat, corn, and pork, before and since the issue of such currency. The most trustworthy statistics show that such articles were sold in New York during the five years from 1870 to 1874, inclusive, for about the same price they brought in the five years from 1856 to 1860, inclusive.

On the other hand it is equally certain that the farmer has paid increased prices, during the period from 1870 to 1874, for articles imported for consumption, upon all of which the difference between gold and currency must be paid by the consumer, who pays in the latter. Thus the producer of domestic articles is constantly subjected to loss in exchanging his products for such articles as coffee, tea, sugars, and other imported goods, which enter into daily consumption. In this connection it should be borne in mind that a greater volume of currency is required for the transaction of business when it consists of inconvertible paper, which does not circulate abroad, than when the currency in general use is gold, which flows through every artery of commerce. The statistics of our foreign trade illustrate this proposition. For every imported article the consumer must pay to the importer, besides the cost in gold, increased by his percentage of profit, as much more as the difference between gold and the currency with which payment is made. This difference, commonly called the premium on gold, increases by many millions the total amount which would otherwise be required to complete all such transactions.

The Uses of Currency.

The proper office of currency, whether it be gold or paper, is to serve as a medium of exchange for the adjustment of transactions between buyers and sellers. When it is sound and stable, receivable in all parts of the commercial world, the amount which actually passes from hand to hand in business transactions is but a small portion of the volume of business. A small per cent. thereof is adjusted by the actual handling of money. Exchanges are, for the most part, made by transfers of credits through banks and other agencies. Wherever exchanges and business transactions are conducted on the basis of coin and paper convertible into it, the volume will be regulated by natural causes. Money, like merchandise, will go where there is a demand for it, and where something of value can be obtained in exchange for it. When the financial panic of 1857 created a demand for gold in this country, a ready and continued supply came readily from abroad, to meet the necessities of our people, and brought speedy relief. Now, the enforced use of inconvertible paper currency not only obstructs the flow of gold from abroad, but drives from the country the precious metals yielded by our mines.

Good and bad currency cannot be retained in anything like equal proportions in a country having intercourse and relations with other powers and people. The latter will drive away the former. Gold and silver will flow steadily to those parts of the commercial world where business is done on the basis of an unvarying standard of values, and where every issue of paper is convertible into the precious metals at the option of the holder, because they are needed there. Such is the inevitable operation of the law of supply and demand; and the present limited and inadequate supply of coin in this country is chiefly due to this cause. Gold has become a commodity of trade, the price of which from day to day depends largely upon the will of those who have combined to control the market. This presents a serious obstruction to all productive industries requiring currency, and introduces into business transactions an element of uncertainty which often unsettles the most intelligent calculations, and tends to destroy confidence, without which there can be no real or permanent prosperity. Apparent, but fictitious prosperity has often followed large issues of irredeemable paper currency, but no result is more certain to flow from a given cause, than disaster and financial distress to follow a period of inflation of business and credit caused by excessive issues of paper currency. The philosophy which teaches by example, as well as by the deductions of reason, establishes conclusively that there is no effective remedy for the evil but the removal of its cause.

The circumstances attending the issue of United States notes now in circulation impose upon the Government a peculiar obligation to provide for their speedy and certain redemption in coin. They were issued in the exercise of a power which can be called into use only in a time of supreme necessity, and were paid out for the support of an army composed of brave and patriotic citizens who had responded to the call of their country in the hour of its extreme peril. To suffer a promise made at such a time and under such circumstances to be dishonored by subsequent indifference or non-performance, would be little better than open repudiation, and would affect injuriously our national name and credit.

The Political Argument.

It is worthy of note that for the most part those who now oppose the redemption of legal-tender notes, and who ask for a further issue and continued and indefinite retention of the notes now in circulation, were most strenuous in their opposition to such issues during the civil war. The acts authorizing such issues were denounced as in violation of sound principles of finance, not warranted by the Constitution. The constitutional validity was resisted at every point, and subjected to the test of judicial decision in almost every court in the country, both State and National. The supreme judicial tribunal of the nation upheld the acts as measures of necessity in a time of great exigency, but it has neither decided nor intimated that such power may be exercised by Congress in time of public tranquility. Indeed it is fairly inferable, from all the court has said in the various cases in which the question has been before it, that the issue of such notes in time of peace is not within the constitutional power of Congress. The language and argument of the court leave no reason to believe that it would sustain the claim of power to increase the volume of such issues or to reissue such as have been redeemed in obedience to law, when the public exigency no longer exists. Those who opposed such issues at a time of supreme necessity, and insist upon further issues when the emergency has passed away, put themselves in the attitude of opposing war measures in the midst of war, and advocating them in a time of profound peace. Congress carefully confined the operation of the act to the period of necessity by authorizing "the re-issue from time to time, as the exigencies of the public interests shall require."

Our Promises.

The Government is bound, not only by economic considerations and proper regard for the interest of the people, but by express and repeated promises, to provide for the redemption in coin of all its issues of legal-tender notes. The original legal-tender act was regarded and treated at the time of its adoption as a temporary measure, made necessary and justifiable only by the exigency of war, which taxed all the resources and energies of the nation. The first act authorizing such issues (February 25, 1862) is entitled "An act to authorize the issue of United States notes, *and for the redemption or funding thereof*, and for funding the floating debt of the United States"—language that significantly expresses the views of Congress by which it was passed. It authorized the issue of $150,000,000 legal tender notes, and made provision for funding them in bonds issued on the credit of the Government, bearing interest in gold and payable at a future day. This was the best the Government could do in the midst of its struggle for existence and rightful supremacy. The state of the public credit did not admit the possibility of the immediate payment of a sufficient amount of coin to redeem the notes absolutely. A well-settled principle of political economy forbade the issue of paper currency without providing for its redemption, and, in obedience to this, Congress made the only practical provision for the redemption of the notes which it authorized to be issued and stamped with the quality of legal tender. The act of July 11, 1862, which authorized a further issue of $150,000,000, contained a like provision, and further provided that any notes issued thereunder might be paid in coin, instead of being converted into bonds, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury. The notes thus authorized were issued and accepted by the people upon the assurance that they had the right to fund them in gold-bearing bonds of the United States, and this consideration undoubtedly constituted an important element of their value, and gave them a quality in aid of their circulation and free acceptance in all business transactions. In the opinion of wise and patriotic men, who, as the representatives of the people, were charged with maintaining the individual solvability and supremacy of our national Union, it was necessary to resort to this extraordinary measure for the purpose of carrying the war to a successful termination.

A National War Loan.

It was, in substance and effect, a national war loan, based upon the credit of the Government, and coupled with a pledge for redemption, but the period of payment was to be hereafter determined when the public exigency would permit. It was both in the minds of those who devised and consummated the scheme, that the Government was about to enter upon the issue of an irredeemable paper currency, which should permanently take the place of the world's measure of values. Nor was it claimed by the most earnest advocate of the measure that the Constitution had given to Congress power to issue a permanent paper currency as a substitute for, and stamped by law with the qualities which, in the estimation of political economists, could exist only in the precious metals. In the light of the experience of the civilized world, such a purpose would have been regarded as little less than financial madness, and its avowal by the authors of the legal tender acts would surely have caused the defeat of the plan for exerting the borrowing power of the Government by means of such issues.

But the purpose and meaning of the acts in question are not left open for forensic discussion, having been authoritatively settled by the unanimous opinion of the highest judicial tribunal known to our Constitution. As soon after the termination of the war as 1868, it was argued before the Supreme Court that the legal tender notes of the United States were issued as money, a substitute for metallic currency, and that, having been made legal tender in payment of all debts, including (with certain exceptions) the Government's own, of course, when presented for payment, if similar notes, being legal tender, were offered in exchange for them, the debt would be discharged, by a delivery of new notes of the same kind, and so on *ad infinitum*. To this argument the court replied:

"Apart from the quality of legal tender impressed upon them by acts of Congress, of which we say nothing, their circulation as currency depends upon the extent to which they are received in payment, on the quantity in circulation, and on the credit given to the promises they bear. In other respects they resemble the bank note formerly issued as currency.

"But, on the other hand, it is equally clear that these notes are obligations of the United States. Their name imports obligation. Every one of them expresses upon its face an engagement of the nation to pay the bearer a certain sum. The dollar note is an engagement to pay a dollar, and the dollar intended is the coin dollar of the United States—a certain quantity in weight and fineness of gold or silver, authenticated as such by the stamp of the Government."

Greenbacks to be Redeemed in Specie.

This authoritative declaration of the Supreme Court defines clearly and precisely the meaning and intent of Congress in the acts which authorize the issue, and should be accepted as conclusive of the obligation and duty of the Government to provide for the payment in specie of all such issues.

Nor is this all. Subsequent to this decision, and for the purpose of putting a quietus upon the mischievous discussion of the subject, Congress, on the 18th day of March, 1869, declared by public act that "the United States solemnly pledges its faith to make provision at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of the United States notes in coin."

These provisions of the various acts of Congress, which were passed with the approval of the Executive, and the clear adjudication of the Supreme Court, as well as the plainest principles of political economy, and proper regard for the public welfare, commit the Government to the redemption in coin of the notes issued under the circumstances before stated. National faith and honor could not be more distinctly or unequivocally pledged to the performance of a plain duty.

In view of these solemn and repeated pledges, it seems idle to resort to the consideration of elementary principles of finance to prove the evils of an irredeemable paper currency. In the face of such pledges, disregard of which would bring national dishonor, and serious if not irreparable, injury to the public credit, it can hardly be necessary to discuss questions of expediency, or to point out the ills which the experience of the civilized world shows must follow a violation of well-known laws of political economy.

The Legal Tender Act.

It is among the first and most important functions of Government to give to the people a sound and stable currency, having a fixed relation to the standard of values in general use among nations. The true method by which the Government has to do is not so much a question of volume as of soundness and stability of the currency. When it has established a currency of fixed and stable value, having a known relation to that of other powers, and furnishing a uniform medium of exchange, the volume may and should be left to be determined by the wants of trade and business. Natural causes, aided by individual effort and enterprise, will regulate the volume of currency far more wisely and with greater safety to business than acts of Congress imposing artificial limits, subject to increase or diminution at every session. The existing provisions of law making United States notes legal tender for all debts, both public and private, with certain exceptions relating to transactions with government, is an artificial barrier to the use of gold and silver, tending not only to prevent the flow of gold toward this country, but promoting the shipment abroad of our own coin, and of the precious metals. For this reason Congress should abolish the legal tender quality of the notes, as to all contracts made, and liabilities arising after a fixed time, not first day of January, 1879, being already fixed by law as the time when the redemption of United States notes then outstanding shall begin, it would be proper and safe to provide that such notes shall not be legal tender for contracts made, or liabilities incurred after the first day of January, 1877. Such an act would not too suddenly change the value of the notes, and would not affect injuriously either debtors or creditors, but would remove a present obstruction to the retention of our gold and silver production, and create a demand for the return of gold now abroad, thus promoting final resumption by preparing the country for it.

Kelley Rediviuus.

In furtherance of the purpose of the act of the last Congress to provide for the resumption of specie payments, the Secretary recommends that authority be given for funding legal tender notes into bonds bearing a low rate of interest. Such bonds should run for a longer period of time than those now authorized for regarding the interest bearing debt, and should be made available to national banks for deposit to secure their circulation and other liabilities to the government, and should bear a rate of interest so low as not to cause too rapid absorption of the notes. It seems probable that a bond bearing interest at the rate of four per cent., would invite the funding of a sufficient amount of legal tender notes to lessen materially the sum of gold which, in the absence of such provision, must be accumulated in the Treasury by the 1st of January, 1878, to carry out the imperative requirements of the act of January 14, 1875. If it be apprehended that authority to the Secretary to fund an unlimited amount of notes might lead to the sudden contraction of the currency, Congress could limit the amount to be funded in any given period of time. The process being in no sense compulsory as to the holders of United States notes, and the rate of interest on the bonds being made low, it is not probable that currency which could find profitable employment would be presented for redemption in such bonds. Only the excess of the notes above the needs of business would seek such conversion. Authority to the Secretary of the Treasury to redeem and cancel two million of legal-tender notes per month by this process would greatly facilitate and hasten the time now fixed by law, and besides would have the advantage of publicity as to the exact amount to be withdrawn in any given month. Bonds issued for this purpose should be of the denomination of fifty and one hundred dollars, and convenience of all classes of holders of United States notes. The faith of the Government now stands pledged to resumption on and after January 1, 1879, and to the final redemption and removal from the currency of the country of the legal tender notes as fast as they shall be presented for redemption, according to the provisions of the act of January 14, 1875. To resume on the 1st of January, 1879, without further legislation, would require the accumulation of a large amount of gold in the Treasury in order to avert the possibility of failure of the plan. Such an amount of gold can be procured with difficulty, and not without more or less embarrassing effect upon the trade and commerce of our own and other countries. The present abundance and cheapness of both currency and capital presents a favorable opportunity for the withdrawal and redemption of a considerable part of the outstanding legal-tender notes, thereby making easy and effectual the redemption now pledged. Such withdrawal of legal-tender notes, thus disposed of, makes necessity for accumulating gold in the treasury in proportion to the amount withdrawn, would tend to appreciate those remaining outstanding and make it easier to procure and maintain the silver coin now authorized to be issued.

What the Resumption Act Means.

The act last referred to is an express recognition of the duty and obligation of the Government to resume specie payment at the day therein named; and, however widely different may be the views of intelligent persons upon the means adopted by Congress, it is gratifying to know that the end sought to be reached has met the concurrence of the country, and that a majority of the people believe the method has been publicly and fully discussed, have signified their approval of the determination of Congress to be faithful to its pledges, and to relieve them of the ills of an irredeemable paper currency.

The act in question not only makes express provision for resumption at a fixed date, but commits the Government to the use of all means necessary to effect that end. If experience shall show that the means provided by Congress need to be supplemented by further legislation for the easier and more certain accomplishment of the end, it must be assumed that Congress will not suffer the great purpose to be impeded for want of such additional legislation. The act confers large powers on the Secretary of the Treasury, touching the issue of United States bonds for the purpose of procuring the supply of gold necessary to execute such of its provisions as go into immediate operation, and to provide for the redemption in gold of United States notes outstanding on and after the 1st of January, 1879. In this respect the power conferred on the Secretary is ample; but if, for any cause, it should be found impracticable to accumulate in the treasury a sufficient amount of gold to carry out the provisions of the act, the Secretary is left without the choice of other means to accomplish the end. It may, perhaps, be doubted whether the process of accumulating a large amount of gold by a given time could go on without meeting opposition from the financial powers of the world. It is safe to say that so large an amount of gold as would be required to carry out the purpose and direction of the act cannot be suddenly acquired. It can be done only by gradual processes, and by taking advantage of favorable conditions of the money market from time to time.

The loss of interest on large sums hoarded in the treasury for a considerable period in advance of January, 1879, is a consideration not to be disregarded, although it should not be permitted to outweigh the benefits to result from full and complete execution of the act.

Sales of Gold.

The Secretary regrets that the condition of the Treasury has been such as to render it necessary to make sales of gold coin from time to time to meet pressing demands upon it payable in currency. Such sales have been made in New York city, upon public notice, in accordance with the plan previously adopted, and have been limited from month to month to the only amount necessary to keep on hand a sufficiency of currency to meet the probable demands upon the treasury under existing appropriations. It is the desire of the Secretary to retain in the treasury, so far as practicable, the gold received from customs, and sales are discontinued whenever the balance of currency in the treasury is sufficient to meet currency payments.

The Secretary devotes considerable space, and many statistics, to the national banks. His general estimate of the situation, as stated with reference to these institutions, is as follows: Banking having been made free by the act of the last Congress, without restriction as to the amount of circulating notes that may be issued to any part of the country, it is believed that such currency will distribute itself according to the demands and necessities of business. The privileges which attach to national banks being open to individuals in all parts of the country, capital will not be slow to establish additional banks, or to increase the circulation of those already in existence, whenever and wherever the exigencies of business shall render it apparent that an increase of circulation is desirable. But it does not seem probable that such demand will arise to any considerable extent while the volume of legal-tender notes continues so great as to cause large sums to lie idle in commercial centres, for want of safe and profitable investment.

Customs.

The falling off in importations is largely dwelt upon, and the fact that the decrease is considerable has lead to measures to reduce expenses. In connection with the general subject of a consolidation of customs districts, it may be remarked that an examination of statistical returns from all the districts in the United States will show that in some of them the amount of business transacted is not sufficient to justify keeping up the corps of officers whose aggregate compensation exceeds the amount of revenue collected by them, and who can render adequate return only by acting as a preventive or detective force. That species of service requires a greater number of officers to guard exposed lines of coast and frontier than existing circumstances will permit. Consolidation of a number of districts would facilitate the performance of such duties, besides securing a reduction of the aggregate expenses. And, as auxiliary to this, it is recommended that fixed salaries be made applicable to all ports and districts, and that all officers be required to pay into the Treasury all fees, emoluments, and allowances, of whatever nature or character, received by them.

Another remedy, and the most effective which could be adopted for correcting the evils of the present system, would be the substitution, so far as practicable, of specific for *ad valorem* duties. This change would work a great reduction in the amount of opportunities for the levying of blackmail. The entire process of ascertaining duties would be more simple, certain and safe. Opportunities for collusive undervaluation would be greatly lessened, and if errors were committed they would not, as to specific rates and amounts, be accounted for except upon the supposition of culpable negligence or actual fraud; whereas, in respect to *ad valorem* duties, an error of judgment may readily be assigned as a sufficient explanation.

Receipts and Expenditures for the Next Fiscal Year.

Referring to the estimates of receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year, and to the necessity now existing for the accumulation of gold in the Treasury, the Secretary again calls the attention of Congress to the effect of the act of 1872, repealing the duty on coffee and tea. In his last annual report the Secretary expressed the opinion that the act admitting these articles to free entry had been without advantage to consumers in this country, but that the duty repealed had been added to the cost abroad. The repeal of duty has been followed by increase of export duty in the countries of production, and this increase has been paid by consumers. Subsequent consideration of the subject has confirmed the views heretofore expressed, and the Secretary recommends restoration of the duty on the articles in question. Being imported in large bulk, this duty is easily collected, and the opportunities for fraudulent introduction are comparatively slight.

During the fiscal year 1875 the cost of collecting the revenue from customs was reduced more than half a million dollars per annum, by dropping from the rolls in the various customs districts a considerable number of officers and employés, and by reducing the salaries of others, which are not fixed by law, but are under the control of the Secretary.

The Whisky Cases.

The workings of this department of the revenue system are described, when the whisky cases are alluded to. The energy and scope of the prosecution is thus alluded to: Besides the institution of criminal proceedings, civil suits have been brought upon the bonds of officials and of distillers; distilleries and spirits have been seized as forfeited to the United States for violations of law; and, wherever the evidence warranted, assessments have been made against distillers for delinquent taxes and placed in the hands of collectors, with instructions to collect by process of law. Urgent applications have been presented for the compromise of many of the cases, but it has been deemed better for the interest of the Government to allow all of them to take the usual course in the courts; hence, all such applications have been denied.

The Secretary considers it important to the future collection of the revenue, that all parties engaged in persistent and systematic frauds shall be visited with the severest penalties of the law. To this end, its instructions have been repeatedly given to officers of internal revenue, and others in the service of this department, to render all proper assistance to the officers of the Department of Justice in the prosecution of the cases now pending, and in the detection and punishment of such guilty parties as have not yet been indicted. It is deemed of especial importance that officers of the Government who have betrayed their trust, and engaged in frauds on the revenue, shall be brought to speedy and condign punishment. Those who are intrusted with official duties and responsibilities should be given to know that the Government will not deal lightly with them when they prove to be guilty of corruption in office. Taxpayers cannot be expected to deal honestly with government when its own trusted officers are permitted to participate in frauds on the revenue, without incurring swift and certain punishment. The highest guaranty for the faithful collection of revenue is in the vigilance and integrity of officials. The guaranty can be secured only by careful selection in the first instance, by retaining in office such as have proved their efficiency and honesty, and by prompt dismissal and vigorous prosecution of such as have been found faithless.

Cotton Claims.

The balance of the report is devoted to the several departments, including revenue, marine, life saving service, and the like. His closing subject is the cotton claims, the result of the war. On these he says: Experience has shown that, as a rule, no claim subjected to the scrutiny of a court in the vicinity were it arises is likely to be sustained if it is unfounded in fact, while, on the contrary, such claims are often carried through the Department without attracting the attention of those who either know them to be false or have the means of proving them to be so, and not until they are made public, after payment, is the evidence of their fradulent character produce. It has happened that claims have been passed by the accounting officers, which were subsequently ascertained to be fraudulent and fictitious, and the government has felt called upon to proceed by civil action to recover the money, and to institute criminal prosecutions against parties engaged in the fraud.

Trial in the vicinage is no less important to the Government than to the honest claimant. Requiring a citizen from a distant part of the Union to come to Washington to defend a claim, at the risk of losing his claim against the Government, often operates oppressively on him, and is without corresponding benefit to the Government. It is difficult to perceive why such claims should not be tried in the vicinity where it arises, and where, as has been before said, if tried with the publicity attending a jury trial, with witnesses present to undergo cross-examination, the establishment of false and fraudulent claims would certainly be rendered more difficult. The government would be placed in the advantage by the remoteness of the place of trial from the departments where the public records are kept, for the statute already makes certified copies of such records competent evidence, and they could be well be sent to distant parts of the country as to the Court sitting in Washington city. In rare and exceptional cases, the production of original records may be required, but these could be sent in charge of a proper custodian.

FINANCIAL.

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DAILY GAZETTE.

FINANCIAL.

Latest Advices Concerning Money and Stock Matters.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, WEDNESDAY, December 8, 1875.

The stormy character of the weather yesterday operated to prevent the transaction of a large amount of business. There has been a noticeable lack of matter for comment in the local financial situation during the past week. It is seldom that November closes with so general a quiet in every department of the loan market. The calls upon the banks for accommodation are decreasing in volume apparently. The winter is going to be a very easy one financially—as far as the ease of borrowing by those who don't need to borrow is concerned. The revision of credits has been so thorough, and the promptness of collections is such, that the amount of commercial paper offered the banks is very small. So the demand for money is not as great as is desired, and the call for money is not likely to be great for a time to come. If the misfortune of the stoppage of our mills should occur, it will make a hard time for the poor, but at easy time for such business men as are not required to carry paper in the banks.

Robinson Brothers, Bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following quotations of bonds and stocks from the latest advices by telegraph:

Gold	114½	5-20's 1865—coupons	122¾
U.S. 6's, 1881, reg	120½	10-40's	117¾
" 1881	120¾	Currency 6's	122¼
" 1881	115¾	New 5 per cents	116¾
" 1881	115¾	10-40's—Coupon	117½
6-20's 1867	122¾		

RAILWAYS.

N. Y. Cen	105½	Ohio & Mississippi	17¼
Erie, common	21¾	Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago	130
Erie, preferred	41¾	Toledo & Wabash	43
I. C	94	Harlem	122
C. C. & I. C	43	Adams Express	93½
Pac. Mail	34¾	American Express	60½
Do. Pref	66½	U. S. Express	54
Michigan Cen	89½	Wells, Fargo & Co. Ex	83½
North Western Com	58¾	Quicksilver	17¾
Do. Pref	74¾	Fort Wayne	98¾
Rock Island	103½	Hannibal & St. Jo	15
Clev. & Pitts	90	Panama	124
Pacific R. R.	99½	Iron Mountain	114
Western Union Tel.	76		

Robinson Brothers furnish the following quotations of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board:

P. R. R. (R)	57	Cen. Trans (S)	46½
Reading (S)	55¾	Emptre Do	41
W. Con. of N. J. (B)	34	A. V. R. R. 7-30 (B)	94
Cam. Coal (S)	96½	R. C. & I. St. L. 7's (S)	76¾
Lehigh Valley (S)	62¾		

NEW YORK, December 7, 1875.

Money 4 1-2; prime mercantile paper 6@6 8. The customs receipts were $371,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $214,000. The clearings were $24,000,000. Sterling was firm at 484@487 1-2. Gold opened at 114¾ and closed at 114 1-4. All sales of the day were at these figures. The carrying rates were 1, 1 1-2 and 3 per cent. Loans were also made flat. Governments were steady. Railroad bonds were firm and in good demand. State securities were quiet. Stocks in the main opened firm, but at the second call were weak, with a general reaction from the highest point. At the close the market was still lower. Union Pacific declined to 76¾, and closed at 77@77 1-2. Lake Shore declined to 59 1-2, Pacific Mail to 40¾, Western Union to 76, Northwest to 38 3-4, preferred to 54 1-2, St. Paul to 35 3-4, preferred to 66¾, Michigan Central to 60 3-4. The other changes were slight. The transactions aggregated 123,300 shares, of which 27,000 were Pacific Mail, 14,060 Western Union, 5,000 Northwest, 5,000 St. Paul, 3,000 Erie, 55,000 Lake Shore, and 3,500 Union Pacific.

Governments.—U. S. coupons of 1881, 123; 5-20s of '65, 115; do new, 120½; do of '67, 122¾; do of '68, 122¾; new 5s, 117; 10-40s, 117¼; do coupons, 117¾; currency 6s, 122.

State Bonds.—Tennessee, old, 45½; do new, 43½; Virginia, new, 37; do old, 38; Missouri 6s, 102½.

Stocks.—Western Union Telegraph, 75½; Pacific Mail, 40¾; Adams Express, 102½; Fargo Express, 83½; American Express, 60½; United States Express, 54½; New York Central, 104½; Erie, 25½; do preferred, 42; Hudson, 133½; do preferred, 132; Michigan Central, 60½; Lake Shore, 59½; Union Pacific, 77; Illinois Central, 94; Pittsburgh, 90½; Northwest common, 38¾; do preferred, 54½; New Jersey Central, 105; Rock Island, 104½; St. Paul, 35¾; do preferred, 66; Toledo & Wabash, 7½; do preferred, 17; Fort Wayne, 98½; Missouri Pacific, 5; do preferred, 19½; Chicago & Alton, 91; do preferred, 105; Ohio & Mississippi, 17¼; Hannibal & St. Joe, 20½; Burlington & Quincy, 114½; Delaware & Lackawanna, 119½; Atlantic & Pacific Telegraph, 19; Central Pacific, 106½; Union, 104½.

LONDON, December 7—5 P. M.—The rate of discount in open market for three months bills is 2½ per cent., which is ½ per cent. below the Bank of England rate. Consols: money, 93 13-16; account, 93 15-16; bonds of '65, old, 106½; do of '67, 109¾; 10-40s, 105¾; new 5s, 104½; New York Central, 96; Erie, 14½; preferred, 31.

PARIS, December 7.—Rentes 66f 62½c.

COMMERCIAL.

Condition of the Markets at Home and Abroad.

DAILY REPORT OF PITTSBURGH MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, TUESDAY, December 7, 1875.

The general merchandise markets continue dull, and no immediate improvement is expected; the demand for goods of all kinds is comparatively light—restricted to supplying immediate necessities, while as regards values there have been no important changes for some days.

APPLES.—The market continues dull, and prices are weak but unchanged; sales—in a jobbing way—at $2@3 per barrel, according to quality and condition.

APPLE BUTTER—70@75c ₱ gallon.

BEANS—In large supply and very dull—navies quotable at $1 45@1 50 ₱ bu.

BUTTER—Prime to choice rolls quotable at 28@30c, and fair to good at 23@25—nothing but strictly choice will command 30c. Low grade Butter is in good supply and very dull.

CRANBERRIES—$10 to $11 ₱ barrel.

CHEESE—The market is quiet and unchanged—prime Ohio Factory, 13½@14 cents; do, New York, 14@15c.

DRIED FRUIT—The demand for dried Peaches and Apples is fair; sales of choice Pealed Peaches at 9@10c; choice new unpealed halves, 13@14; old wellkept halves, 12@12½. New Apples, 10@10½ and ric for choice; do common.

EGGS—Fresh are still quoted at 28@30c, and pickled at from 22@25, as to brand.

FLOUR—The market continues dull and weak, but prices remain unchanged. Old winter wheat, $6@6 25 for red, and new red winter wheat, $6.00@6 25; spring wheat, $6.50@7—the outside figure for choice Minnesotas. Some dealers report $7 as an outside figure for either winter or spring. Rye flour, $6.75@6.90 per barrel. Buckwheat flour, 2½@3c ₱ pound.

GROCERIES—Trade continues dull, as it nearly always is in December, and there is no reason to look for any improvement until next month. The leading staples are devoid of any new features deserving of special notice in this column, and we do not directly see much in these columns. Private and reliable advices from New York this P. M. report that coffee had declined from ¼c to ½c ₱ lb as compared with the highest point last week.

SUGARS.

Cut Loaf	12¾	Standard B	10¾
Crushed	11¾	Standard Ex C	10¼
Granulated	11	Refined Yellows	9¾
Powdered	11¾	N. O. new crop	8½@ 9¾
Standard A	10¾		

COFFEES.

Rangy Rio	26	R. Rio, ib prime	23
Prime Rio	24½@25	R. Rio, loose	23½
Good Rio	23	Roasted Java	40
Old Gov. Java	34		

SYRUPS.

Choice	70	Fair	55 @60
Prime	65 @70	Dark	45 @50

MOLASSES.

N. O. choice		Demarara	50@55
N. O. prime	65		

RICE.

Carolina	8½	Rangoon	7½

TEAS.

Young Hyson	45 @ 65	Japan	40 @ 65
Gunpowder	40 @ 80	Oolong	35 @ 65
Imperial	40 @ 90	Souchong	35 @ 75

GRAIN—The grain markets continue dull and without any quotable change in prices. Wheat is still quoted at $1 25@1 30 for fair to prime new red; $1 30@1 40 for same grades of new white; old red, $1 40@1 45. The Oat market is dull, but with a limited supply prices are firmer; Penna. and Ohio mixed, 37@38c; ditto white, 40@41c; western white, 41@42c. Old Corn is in light stock and held with considerable firmness, especially car full prices; new car, choice, according to condition and quality. Rye is unchanged at 80@85c. Barley $1@1 25.

HAY—The market for baled is firmer, and strictly prime is in better supply; upland prairie, $13@15; No. 1 timothy, $20@21; No 2 ditto, $18@19.

ONIONS—Quiet at $3 ₱ bbl.

POTATOES—The arrivals are only fair, but the market continues slow and prices remain about as last quoted—Seeds for Peach Blows on track.

PROVISIONS—The general position of the market has not varied much recently. A Chicago paper, of Monday, says: The week's record shows a material falling off in activity in packing. Cincinnati being the only principal point which has done anything like as much as at this time last year, and stocks of product was light all over the country. Packers do not care to stock up, as they consider hogs to be too high for safety, though conditions are a little more favorable than a week ago. The present weather is highly favorable to feeding, and the prospect now is that, while the season is late, it will compare favorably with past seasons in the quantity of the hogs, which will make amends for any deficiency in the number marketed.

Hams—Extra S. C. per lb	16	Lard, Prime Leaf in tierces, new	13½
Shoulders, Ex. S. C	11¾	Do. half barrels	14½
B'fast Bacon, S. C	13¾	Lard, Ref. for summer use, in tierces	—
Dried Beef, Ex. Sugar Cured, new	—	Do. in ½ bbls	—
Beef Tongues, S. C. per doz	—	Do. in buckets	—
Bacon Shoulders	10¾	Do. 3 lb caddies	17
Rib Sides	—	Do. 5 lb do	16¾
Short Rib do	13½	Do. 10 lb do	16¾
Clear Sides	16	Do. 6 lb do	17
Mess Pork, per bbl	$22.50	Ham Sausage	10
Miner's Lard Oil	—	Carbon Oil	—
Lard Oil	—	Cheese	—

POULTRY—Live Chickens, 45@55c ₱ pair; dressed, 12@13c ₱ lb; do Ducks, 13@14; do Turkeys, 15@16c.

RAGS—Good mixed, 3½@3¾.

STRING—Paper rope, 10@12.

TALLOW—City Rendered, 9¾@10.

PITTSBURGH PETROLEUM MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, TUESDAY, December 7, 1875.

The Crude market was easier to-day, and as compared with yesterday, prices were a shade lower—immediate shipment quoted at $1.40; Conduit certificates, $1.32½@1.35; United, $1.32½; outside lines, $1.30@1.31½; barge oil, $1.25. Reports from the interior are highly favorable, and the demand for shipment east has fallen off considerably, and to this may be attributed the slight reaction to which reference has been made. Refined very dull, and prices are nominally nominal at 15½c, delivered in Philadelphia and 9¾@9¾ on cars here.

Oil Barrels also very dull—sale of 500 countries reported at $1.10, 900 city make offered at $1.20 without finding a buyer.

SHIPMENTS CRUDE OIL VIA ALLEGHENY VALLEY R. R.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
J. J. Fisher	Anderson & w	163
G. M. Robinson	J. R. Rental	148
A. Schantz	Palms, A. & T	150
G. M. Robinson	Venia & W	74
Total		463

Louisville Tobacco Market—Weekly Review.

The sales during the week were 294 hogsheads in excess of last week, nearly all good, being of the crop of 1874. Receipts of this latter have considerably improved, and the weather conditions make it probable that the supply next week will be still larger. As usual, the earlier receipts grade low, and there are indications that in point of substance and weight the quality of the crop of 1875 will fall below the average standard. The bulk of receipts have been nondescript leaf and lugs, in undertoned packages—and latterly a considerable proportion has been in "high" order.

There has been a good legitimate demand for all grades—mainly from rehandlers, but domestic and foreign buyers have taken the descriptions adapted to their wants at full prices as last quoted. To the last day or two a somewhat quieter feeling has arisen in consequence of larger offerings, but no quotable change in prices has occurred. The very small offerings of old tobacco is a noticeable feature—sales of old tobacco have been making at full prices, and selling grades have a good, healthy demand.

During the month of November stocks were reduced by 1,091 hogsheads, and by actual count last Saturday night there were remaining in store 18,000 hogsheads, 12,812¾. New Apples, 10@10½ and rice for choice; do common.

Lard, Prime Leaf in tierces, new, 13½@14 cents; do. New York, 14@15c.

DRIED FRUIT—The demand for dried Peaches and Apples is fair; sales of choice Pealed Peaches at 9@10c; choice new unpealed halves, 13@14; old wellkept halves, 12@12½. New Apples, 10@10½ and rice for choice; do common.

EGGS—Fresh are still quoted at 28@30c, and pickled at from 22@25, as to brand.

FLOUR—The market continues dull and weak, but prices remain unchanged. Old winter wheat, $6@6 25 for red, and new red winter wheat, $6.00@6 25; spring wheat, $6.50@7—the outside figure for choice Minnesotas. Some dealers report $7 as an outside figure for either winter or spring. Rye flour, $6.75@6.90 per barrel. Buckwheat flour, 2½@3c ₱ pound.

GROCERIES—Trade continues dull, as it nearly always is in December, and there is no reason to look for any improvement until next month. The leading staples are devoid of any new features deserving of special notice in this column, and we do not directly see much in these columns. Private and reliable advices from New York this P. M. report that coffee had declined from ¼c to ½c ₱ lb as compared with the highest point last week.

SUGARS.

Cut Loaf	12¾	Standard B	10¾
Crushed	11¾	Standard Ex C	10¼
Granulated	11	Refined Yellows	9¾
Powdered	11¾	N. O. new crop	8½@ 9¾
Standard A	10¾		

COFFEES.

Rangy Rio	26	R. Rio, ib prime	23
Prime Rio	24½@25	R. Rio, loose	23½
Good Rio	23	Roasted Java	40
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POTATOES—The arrivals are only fair, but the market continues slow and prices remain about as last quoted—Seeds for Peach Blows on track.

PROVISIONS—The general position of the market has not varied much recently. A Chicago paper, of Monday, says: The week's record shows a material falling off in activity in packing. Cincinnati being the only principal point which has done 16c; May 1 44-32@14¼c; June 14 5-32@14 5-16c; July 14 7-16@14 9-16c; August 14 17-32@14 19-32c.

NEW ORLEANS, December 7.—Cotton firm; sales 4,750 bales; prices generally stronger; good ordinary to strict good ordinary 10½@11Ac; low middling to strict low middling 11¼@11¾; good middling to strict middling 12⅜@12¾c; good middling 12⅝@13c; receipts net 9,410 bales; gross 9,954; exports to continent 7,218; coastwise 2,936; to Great Britain 15,846; stock 195,780.

Dry Goods.

NEW YORK, December 7.—Cotton goods are in moderate demand and steady. Brown sheetings ruled firm, and Lonsdale, Hope and Blackstone bleached shirtings advanced 1c. Cotton flannels are active in low grades. Plaid and striped robes are in fair request, and nearly all robes are reduced to 8c. Mallory prints are reduced 1c. Woolens continued quiet. Foreign goods are dull.

IMPORTS BY RAILROAD.

PITTSBURGH, FT. WAYNE & CHICAGO R. R.—1 car hams, Rea, Hill & Co; 2 do, 80 pkgs lard, E. H. Myers & Co; 5 bbls hams, 50 pails lard, Walker & Co; 16 h-f bbls; barley, 10 do oil meal, 10 cases tobacco, Wm. Cooper & Co; 7 bbls hams, W. B. Hays & Son; 9 cases syrup, Voigt M. & Co; 1 car flour, Jenkins & Bro; 1 do, B. H. Voskamp; 1 do, Watt, fr. & Co; 5 do, T. C. Jenkins; 1 do, S. Lindsay Jr & Co. 1 car p lead, Bailey, P. & Co; 2 cars flour, Shoemaker & Co; 1 do, Rodgers & Co; 1 do, Schmidt, G. W. Taylor; 2 do flour, S. S. Marvin & Co; 15 pkgs tobacco, Knox & Co; 25 saddles of venison, Vangorder & S; 10 bbls spirits, J. Kiser; 10 do, Miller, F. & Co; 20 bbls hams, R. Owens; 10 do spirits, P. Hamberger; 15 do hams, W. B. Hays & Son; 42 hides, G. Kahn; 6 pkgs butter, 30 boxes cheese, Braden & P; 1 pkg do, Head C. & Co; 1 car hay, Laing & McK; 20 bbls of apples, F. C. Kirkpatrick; 1 car do, G. L. Peabody; 1 car shingles, George McKee; 1 do m feed McHenry & H; 1 do hay, S. B. Floyd & Co; 40 bbls eggs, 5 pkgs butter, Voigt, M. & Co; 35 bxs cheese, Jenkins Bro; 1 bbl butter, H. Rea Jr; 1 car shingles, H. Hays & Co; 1 car potatoes, P. Gabriel; 1 do, Voigt, M. & Co; 1 car hides, Shipton & W; 36 tubs butter, Wilbert & W; 1 pkg butter, 1 do eggs, Blanchard & Co.

CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH RAILROAD—2 cars lumber, Fullerton, L. B. & Co; 1 do, Burger & Bro; 1 car 7 fish, Garrett & S; 4 bellows, Eagle & S; 1 bale rubber, Hartley, Mc. & Co; 11 kegs paint, W. Coulter; 3 bxs s cases, F. Pollast; 15 bales paper, Fraser, M. & Co; 3 bxs scales, Fairbanks, M. & Co; 5 bbls grease, Palms, A. & T; 12 cases do, S. Ewart & Co; 100 oil bbls, Wm. Mullin; lot slates, Hahn & Bro; 5 bbls oil, Mills, J. & Co; 15 do, J. S. Ramsey & Co; 1 car coal, A. W. Fairley; 20 cases matches, Johnson, C. & Co; 9 do, A. G. Cubbags; 100 bbls flour, Shomaker & Co; 5 cutting box, A. S. Murphy; 5 bbls beans, A. White, Jr., & Son; 33 pkgs stove pipes, W. Hutchinson; 28 bbls d peaches, P. Duff & Son; 5 do, J. H. Lippencott.

PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI & ST. LOUIS R. R.—83 sks oats, E. Alcott; 5 pkgs tobacco, W. & D. Hinchart; 100 bbls flour, T. C. Jenkins; 31 barrels molasses, Arbuckles & Co; 25 tres soap, Hill, W. & Co; 1 car middlings, Kell & R; 1 car meal, J. A. Finney; 30 tres hams, W. B. Hays & Co; 10 bbls corks, Kramer & V; 15 tubs butter, 8 bbls eggs, Caskey, R. & Co; 2 bxs glass, Duff & C; 2 tubs butter, 1 bx do, 1 bbl eggs, H. Loh & Co; 16 hides 2 skins, 37 bags oats, 4 do rye, John White, Jr., & Sons; 1 gold sewing machine, Singer M'f'g Co; 8 cases tobacco, Mann & G; 10 ½ bales tobacco, R. & W. Jenkinson; 2 hhds tobacco, M. Hoyle; 5 pkgs do, Hill, W. & Co; 15 kegs p feet, Walker, C. & Co.

ALLEGHENY VALLEY RAILROAD COMPANY.—26 cars coal, S. Y. C. G. C. Co; 1 do hay, O. H. Allerton; 1 do stones, Shoenberger & D; 10 do, Lucy Furnace; 40 do coal, Armstrong, D & Co; 25 do, Sable Coal Co; 1 do hay, Scott & G. 1 do tar, Loomis & C; 1 do w pipe, F. Duff & Son; 1 do shingles, Kopp & V; 1 do shingles, G. A. Mundorff; 1 do clay, Erskine & Co; 1 do, Harbison & W; 2 do coal, 2 do lumber, Shoenberger & Co; 6 do, Lucy Fur; 1 do oil, D. Howard; 1 do brick, Aladdin Oil Co; 2 bbls g wine, H. W. Buffum & Co; 2 cars ½ barrels, Young & B; 1 bbl 1 oil, W. B. Hays & Son.

ALLEGHENY STATION.—1 car barley, J. N. Strauss; 1 roll leather, S. Benson; 1 bale robes, H. Brill & Co; 16 chairs, Gans & L; 4 cars cooperage, J. M. Hemphill; 1 bbl butter, C. T. Pierce & Co; 30 bbls oil, J. H. Neville & Co; 1 car flour, Shoenberger & D; 50 bbls potatoes, Geyer & F; 10 barrels flour, T. M. Donovan; 1 box butter, F. & S. Reiter.

RECEIPTS AT PITTSBURGH GRAIN TRADE.—1 car wheat, McHenry & H; 1 do barley, J. A. Finney; 7 do, Spencer, McK & Co; 1 do malt, G. A. Taylor; 1 do barley, Marshall, R. & Co; 4 do barley Pier, D. & Co.

Receipts of Blooms, Ore, Pig Metal and Scrap Iron.

CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH R. R.

Greff, B. & Co	1	Isabella Furnace Co	4
Zug & Co	1	S. B. & co	1
Reese, G. & Co	2	Jones & Lo	2
W. Clark & Co.	4		
Total			25

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD CON ANY.

Lewis, O. & P	4	Pittsburgh	4

PITTSBURGH, FORT WAYNE AND CHICAGO RAILROAD. P. R. R. LESSEE.

Spang, C. & Co., m	3	Graff, B. Co, m	2
Carnagie first & Co, m	3	Graff, B. Co, m	2
Isabella Fur. e	4	Lewis O. & P m	1
Jones, McC & Co m	4	W. Springer & Co	1
W. Mullins s t	6	Shoenberger & Co s.	4
Jones & L o w	2		
Total			53

ALLEGHENY VALLEY R R.

Lucy Furnace m	4	Phillips N. & Co, m	1
Shoenberger & Co s	1		
Total			6

(For Additional River News see Fourth Page.)

ELECTIONS.

TRADESMEN'S INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE, NOVEMBER 25, 1875.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS—NOTICE is hereby given, in accordance with the Charter and By-Laws, that the annual election for 13 Board of Thirteen Directors will take place on FOURTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, at the general office, No. 5 Sixth avenue, at 2 o'clock P. M. J. VANNOTE, Secretary.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR OF GAS AND GAS METERS FOR ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

DESIRING THAT THE PUBLIC should more generally avail themselves of the advantages of this office, I would give notice to persons desiring to have their meters tested to leave their orders at the offices of the Gas Companies, or at my office, corner of Twenty-third and Smallman streets, and they will receive prompt attention.

R. H. SMITH, Inspector.

OFFICIAL—PITTSBURGH.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE, MUNICIPAL HALL, PITTSBURGH, December 1, 1875.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Viewers' Reports on the opening of Pottsman street, from 35th avenue to Penn avenue, have been approved by Councils, which action will be final, unless an appeal is filed in the Court of Quarter Sessions within ten (10) days from date.

A. DEMPSTER, City Engineer.

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE, MUNICIPAL HALL, PITTSBURGH, December 1, 1875.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Viewers' Reports of damages caused by grading of Bates Alley from North street to Willow street, Hemlock alley from 43th street to 49th street, and Sylvan avenue from Mary street to Four Mile Run Road, have been approved by Councils, which action will be final unless an appeal is filed in the Court of Quarter Sessions within ten (10) days from date.

A. DEMPSTER, City Engineer.

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY, PITTSBURGH, November 4, 1875.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the assessments made by the Viewers on the opening and widening of the following streets and avenues, are now in my hands for collection, and if not paid within 30 days of the date here of, liens will be filed against the property assessed for the unpaid assessments, with interest, cost and fees.

Opening Washington avenue from Brownsville avenue to city line.

Opening Cliff street from Ledlie street to Cassett street.

Opening Cowan street from Southern avenue to Hall street.

Opening Homewood avenue from Penn avenue to Frankstown Road.

Opening Brownsville avenue from Carson street to Washington avenue.

Widening Ann street from Magee street to Stevenson street.

THOS. S. BIGELOW, City Attorney.

OFFICIAL—ALLEGHENY.

OFFICE OF CLERK OF COUNCILS, CITY OF ALLEGHENY, Dec. 2, 1875.

Grading and Paving Troy Hill Road.

Notice is hereby given that the Report of Viewers on the grading and paving Troy Hill Road was confirmed by Councils, November 29th, 1875. Objections to the report must be filed within ten days.

The Report can be seen in this office.

EDWARD T. WHITE, Clerk of Select Council.

HOTELS.

CHAMBERS MCKIBBIN, ROBERT H. VOSBURG, JESE. MCKIBBIN.

Cor. Ninth and Chestnut Streets, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

GIRARD HOUSE,

M'KIBBIN, VOSBURG & CO.,

The above Magnificent Property has passed into our possession. In the Elegance of its Interior Arrangements, its Apartments and Table, it shall equal any Hotel in the country. 118

JAMES LITTELL,

Senior Member of the Firm of

LITTELL & MECHLING,

WHOLESALE LIQUOR DEALER

NO. 237 LIBERTY AND 244 PENN STREETS.

Whitmore, Wolff, Lane & Co.,

IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN

HARDWARE

SIGN OF THE ANVIL,

No. 50 Wood Street,

Have occupied their NEW BUILDING and furnished it with a NEW AND COMPLETE STOCK, to which they invite the attention of buyers.

THE CHOICEST LINE

OF

FUR BEAVERS,

FOR

OVERCOATS!

IS FOUND AT

HENRY SMITH & SONS,

98 Wylie Ave.

W. B. LUPTON & CO.,

Slate Roofers,

AND DEALERS IN

SLATE OF VARIOUS COLORS,

OFFICE, 354 PENN AVENUE,

PITTSBURGH, PA.

Orders promptly attended to. Retailing neatly done.

MANGANESE—10 BBLS. CHOICE Arsenic—20 kegs choice, for sale by J. S. CANFIELD, 116 Water street.

ovember 29, 1875.

RIVER NEWS.

State of the Rivers, Movements of Steamboats, &c.

OFFICE OF OBSERVATION, SIGNAL SERVICE, U. S. ARMY.—DAILY REPORT OF THE STAGE OF WATER, WITH CHANGES IN THE 24 HOURS ENDING AT 3 P. M.

Pittsburgh, December 7, 1875.

Stations.	Above low water—ft.	Change in the 24 hours—ft.	State of weather.	Wind.
Cairo, Ill	19	7	—3	NW Cloudy.
Cincinnati, Ohio	18	2	—1	NW Lt Rain.
Davenport, Iowa	1	3	—1	NW Clear.
Dubuque, Iowa	4	1	+1	NW Clearing.
Leavenworth	8	9	+5	NW Cloudy.
Louisville	9	2	—6	SW Cloudy
Memphis, Tenn	10	1	—3	NW Clear.
Nashville, Tenn	13		+6	NW Cloudy.
Pittsburgh, Pa	5	2	+1	NW Lt Rain.
Shreveport	5	5	+9	NW Clear.
St. Louis Mo	4	9	+8	NW Lt Snow.
Vicksburg, Miss	24		+8	NW Clearing.

L. A. WELSH, Sergeant, Signal Service, U. S. A.

THE stage of water last evening was 8 feet 3 inches, and rising; rained nearly all day and the indications are favorable for coal boat water within the next 48 hours.

CAPT. A. MCCARTY is agent for the Iron Mountain.

THE towboats Tom Dodsworth and Baltic were due last night.

THE Carrie Brooks departed for Zanesville yesterday on time.

THE Wild Duck, from St. Louis with a cargo of ore, is about due.

THE Venture, James Jackson and Iron City have gone to Parker to bring down tows of oil.

THE Iron Mountain, Capt. W. C. Gray, is announced to depart for New Orleans on Saturday.

THE fine passenger steamer John L. Rhoads is announced to depart for New Orleans on Saturday.

THE Monongahela was rising at headwaters yesterday, while the Allegheny was reported stationary.

PASSENGERS and shippers should bear in mind that the Emma Graham will depart for Cincinnati this P. M.

THE Exchange departed for Cincinnati yesterday afternoon with a good freight list and quite a number of passengers.

THE Tom Rees, Hercules and Samson No. 2 and other towboats will depart with tows of coal within the next day or two.

THE Alice Brown was to have left Louisville on Monday for Memphis and White river with 18 boats in coal. The Sam Brown and Lioness bring her tow from there to Pittsburgh.

CAPT. JOHN WOODBURN is coming up in command of the Cons. Miller, Capt. Jas. B. Pepper having gone below Memphis to meet the Mary Houston, which is bringing to Cincinnati the corpse of his son, Harry Pepper.

THE Hammett, bound to St. Louis, from Wheeling, towing barges, hit an obstruction above Sheep Island and sank, but was very quickly raised by her own men and pumps. The last heard of her she was aground at Sheep Island.

THE Market Boy, from Wheeling, arrived and departed, and the towboat Blue Lodge, J. A. Blackmore and My Choice arrived. The Hornet No. 2 with a tow of hay, one keel boat, two coke boats and 11 empty barges was due last night.

THE Emma Graham, Capt. E. B. Cooper, is the regular Wednesday packet for Cincinnati to-day, leaving at 3 P. M. Notwithstanding the bad weather, with fog almost every night, the Graham continues to make her weekly trips and she is being, as she deserves, well patronized.

THE Moody City will leave Evansville for the south with a big tow, and the Dick Fulton will bring up a tow of empties. The Grand Lake will also go south from that point. The Dick Fulton was engaged on Sunday in pushing a portion of the Smoky City's tow through the canal.

THE monitor that James York took up the Mississippi the other day in tow of the Bee is owned by himself, Edwin Harrison, Charles P. Chotean, Charles A. Mofet and John C. Bellinger. The other is owner by Henry Switzer, W. D. Love, Robert R. Kirkpatrick and Geo. W. Purdy. They are both intended for freight boats.

A MEMPHIS paper, of Friday, says: Captains Thos. Reese and J. J. Darragh have purchased Capt. John Woodburn's interest in the Belle of Texas and the new Arkansas river packet Rosa Miller. Capt. Eph. Banks will have command of the Rosa Miller and Thos. Darragh will continue in charge of the office. Capt. J. J. Darragh will command the Belle of Texas in the Arkansas river trade, with Billy Nuckols in charge of the office and Banksmith second clerk.

THE river is lower below St. Louis than it has been since 1867, and the channel to Cairo is in a very bad condition. There are fully one dozen steamers aground between Cairo and St. Louis—among them the Julia, Ike Hummitt, St. Genevieve, Leopard, Commonwealth, Robert Semple, Capital City, Fannie Tatum and Belle of Shreveport. There are also three large coal boats below Twin Holler, which cannot get over the bar at that point, and unless the river rises they will be obliged to remain there all winter, or return to deliver at points below. The Comet is aground below the dyke on the Illinois side.

RIVER PACKETS.

GRAY'S IRON LINE.

For Memphis, Vicksburg, Natchez and New Orleans.

SATURDAY, Dec. 11, THE STEAMER

Iron Mountain and Barges.

W. C. GRAY.....Master

Will leave as above.

For freight apply on board or to FAIRMAN & HENDERSON, R. C. GRAY, 94 Wood street.

For Memphis, Vicksburg, Natchez and New Orleans.

SATURDAY, Dec. 11—4 P. M. THE NEW STEAMER

JOHN L. RHOADS,

J. M. VANDERGRIFF.....Captain
J. C. FISHER.....Clerk

Will leave as announced above.

For freight or passage apply on board or to J. D. COLLINGWOOD, GEO. H. GHRIEST, Agents, No. 13 Wood street.

For Cincinnati and Louisville.

REGULAR WEEKLY PACKET—EVERY WEDNESDAY, 12 M. THE NEW AND SPLENDID PASSENGER STEAMER EMMA GRAHAM.

E. B. COOPER.....Master.
N. EARHART.....Clerk.

Will leave as announced.

Giving through receipts to Evansville, Nashville, Cairo, Memphis and New Orleans. No freight received after 3 o'clock P. M. on day of departure. For Freight or Passage apply on board or to J. D. COLLINGWOOD, No. 13 Wood street, or GEORGE H. GHRIEST, Agents.

Freights will be received at the mi Bridge Wharf. S. R. & J. W. PATTERSON, Agents.

For Marietta, Parkersburg, Gallipolis, Ironton and Cincinnati.

MONDAY—4 P. M.

Leaves Ironton every Thursday—10 A. M. THE FINE PASSENGER STEAMER SALT VALLEY.

T. S. SANFORD.....Captain
W. A. & L. L. MADDY.....Clerks

Will leave as announced above.

For freight or passage apply on board, or to J. D. COLLINGWOOD, or S. R. & W. J. PATTERSON, Wharfboat, foot of Wood street.

BRIDGE WORK.

UNION IRON MILLS.

Carnegie Brothers & Co.,

PITTSBURGH,

MANUFACTURERS OF

Bridge Iron

Patent Solid Rolled Wrought Iron Beams,

GIRDERS, CHANNEL IRON,

DAILY GAZETTE.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Suggestions for the Action of Congress.

The Specie Resumption Policy Adhered To.

Non-intervention in Cuban Affairs Advised.

NO MONEY FOR SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.

The Evils of Untaxed Church Property Reviewed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In submitting my seventh annual message to Congress, in this Centennial year of the national existence as a free and independent people, it affords me great pleasure to recur to the advancement that has been made from the time of the Colonies, one hundred years ago. We were then a people numbering only three millions. Now we number more than forty millions. Their industries were confined almost exclusively to the tillage of the soil. Now manufactures absorb much of the labor of the country. Our liberties remain unimpaired. The bondsmen have been freed from slavery. We have become possessed of the respect, if not the friendship, of all civilized nations. Our progress has been great in all the arts, in science, agriculture, commerce, navigation, mining, mechanics, law, medicine, etc., and in general education. The progress is likewise encouraging. Our thirteen States have become thirty eight, including Colorado, which has taken the initiatory steps to become a State, and eight Territories, including the Indian Territory and Alaska, and excluding Colorado, making a territory extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. On the south we have extended to the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west from the Mississippi to the Pacific. One hundred years ago the cotton gin, the steamship, the railroad, the telegraph, the reaping, sewing and modern printing machines, and numerous other inventions of scarcely less value to our business and happiness, were entirely unknown. In 1776 manufactures scarcely existed in name in all this vast territory. In 1870 more than two millions of persons were employed in manufactories, producing more than $2,100,000,000 of produce in amount annually, nearly equal to our national debt. From nearly the whole of the populace of 1776 being engaged in the one occupation of agriculture, in 1870 so numerous and diversified had become the occupations of the people that less than six millions out of more than forty millions were so engaged. The extraordinary effect produced in our country by a resort to such occupations has built a market for the produce of fertile lands distant from the seaboard and the markets of the world. The American system of working various and extensive manufactories, next to the plow and the pasture, and adding connecting railroads and steamboats, has produced in our distant country a result not equaled by the intelligent parts of other nations. The ingenuity and skill of American mechanics have been demonstrated at home and abroad in a manner most flattering to their pride. But for the extraordinary grade and ability of our mechanics the achievements of our agriculturists manufacturers and transporters throughout the country would have been impossible of attainment.

The Mines.

The progress of the miner has also been great. Of coal our production was small. Now many millions of tons are mined annually. So with iron, which is now nearly an appreciable part of our products half a century ago. We now produce more than the world consumed at the beginning of our national existence. Lead, zinc and copper, being articles of importance, we may expect to be large exporters of in the near future. The development of gold and silver mines throughout the States and Territories has not only been remarkable, but has had a large influence upon the business of all commercial nations.

Commerce.

Our merchants in the last hundred years have had a success and have established a reputation for enterprise, sagacity, progress and integrity unsurpassed by the people of older nationalities. This good name is not confined to their homes, but goes out on every sea and into every port where commerce enters.

With equal pride we can point to our progress in all of the learned professions.

Our Second Centennial.

As we are now about to enter upon our second Centennial, commencing our manhood, it is well to look back for a moment upon the past and study what will be best to preserve and advance our future greatness. From the fall of Adam for his transgressions to the present day the human race has been a progressive but threatened dangers. We should look to the dangers which threaten us and remedy them so far as lies in our power.

One Man as Good as Another.

We are a republic where one man is as good as another before the law. Under such a form of government it is of the greatest importance that all should be possessed of education and intelligence sufficient to cast a vote with a right understanding of its meaning. A large association of ignorant men cannot for any considerable period oppose a successful resistance to tyranny, as the oppression from the educated few will inevitably sink an acquiescence to the will of intelligence, whether directed by the demagogue or by priestcraft. Hence the education of the mass becomes of the first necessity for the preservation of our institutions. They are worth preserving, because they have secured the greatest good to the greatest proportion of the population of any form yet devised. All other forms of government approach it just in proportion to the general diffusion of education and independence of thought and action as the primary steps.

Religion and Education.

Therefore to our advancement in all that has marked our progress in the past century I suggest for your earnest consideration, and most earnestly recommend it, that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the Legislatures of the several States for ratification, making it the duty of each of the several States to establish and forever maintain free schools adequate to the education of all the children in the rudimentary branches within their respective limits, irrespective of sex, color, place or religion, forbidding the teaching in said schools of religion, sectarian or Pagan, and forbidding any appropriating, or any part thereof, either by legislative, municipal or otherwise, for the benefit of any other object of any nature or kind whatever.

Untaxed Church Property.

In connection with this subject the question I would also call your attention to the importance of correcting an evil that, if permitted to continue, will probably lead to great trouble our land before the close of the nineteenth century. It is the accumulation of vast amounts of untaxed church property. In 1850, I believe, the church property of the United States, which paid no tax, municipal or State, amounted to about $83,000,000. In 1875 the amount had doubled. In 1875 it is about $1,000,000,000. By 1900, without check, it is safe to say this property will reach a sum exceeding $3,000,000,000. Should such a sum, receiving all the protection and benefits of the Government without bearing its proportion of the burdens and expenses of the same, will not be looked upon acquiescently by those who have paid taxes in a growing country, where real estate enhances so rapidly with time, as in the United States, there is scarcely a limit to the wealth that may be acquired by corporations, religious or otherwise. If allowed to retain real estate without taxation, the contemplation of so vast a property as here alluded to without taxation may lead to agitation without constitutional authority, and through blood.

Equal Taxation of Property.

I would suggest the taxation of all property equally, whether church or corporation, exempting only the last resting places of the dead, and possibly with proper restrictions, church edifices.

Our Foreign Relations.

Our relations with most of the foreign powers continue on a satisfactory and friendly footing. Increased intercourse, the extension of commerce and cultivation of mutual interests, have steadily improved, our relations with a large majority of the powers of the world rendering practicable the peaceful solution of questions which from time to time necessarily arise, leaving few which demand extended or particular notice. The correspondence of the Department of State with our diplomatic representatives abroad is transmitted herewith.

Abolition of Portuguese Slavery.

I am happy to announce the passage of an act by the General Cortes of Portugal, proclaimed since the adjournment of Congress, for the abolition of slavery in the Portuguese Colonies. It is to be hoped that such legislation may be another step toward the great consummation to be reached, when no man shall be permitted, directly or indirectly, under any guise, excuse, or form of a law, to hold his fellow man in bondage. I am of the opinion, also, that it is the duty of the United States, as contributing toward that end, and required by the spirit of the Constitution under which we live, to provide, by suitable legislation, that no citizen of the United States shall hold slaves as property in any other country, or be interested therein.

Reparation by Chili.

Chili has made reparation in the case of the whale ship "Good Return," seized without sufficient cause upwards of forty years ago, though she had thitherto denied her accountability. The denial was never acquiesced in by this Government, and the justice of the claim has been so earnestly contended for that it has been gratifying that she should have at last acknowledged it.

The Claim Against Colombia.

The arbitrators in the case of the United States steamer Montijo, for the seizure and detention of which the Government of the United States of Colombia was held accountable, has decided in favor of the claim. This decision has settled a question which has been pending for several years, and which, while it continued open, might more or less have disturbed the good understanding which it is desirable should be maintained between the republics.

Reciprocity with Hawaii.

A reciprocity treaty with the King of the Hawaiian Islands was concluded the same month. As it contains a stipulation that it shall not go into effect until Congress shall enact the proper legislation for the purpose, copies of the instrument are herewith submitted, in order that if such should be the pleasure of Congress, the necessary legislation upon the subject may be adopted.

Indemnity for the Virginius Butchery.

In March last an arrangement was made through Mr. Cushing, our Minister in Madrid, with the Spanish Government, for the payment by the latter to the United States of the sum of $80,000 in coin for the purpose of the relief of the families or persons of the ship's company and certain passengers of the Virginius. This sum was to have been paid in three installments, in two months each. It is due to the Spanish Government that I should state that the payments were fully and speedily anticipated by that Government, and that the whole amount was paid within but a few days more than two months from the date of the agreement, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. In pursuance of the terms of the adjustment I have directed the distribution of the amount among the parties entitled thereto, including the ship's company and such of the passengers as were American citizens. Payments are made accordingly on application of the parties entitled thereto.

The Rebellion in Cuba.

The past year has furnished no evidence of an approaching end to some of the ruinous conflicts which have been raging for years in the neighboring Island of Cuba. With the parties to the war the laws of civilized warfare, and of the just demands of humanity, which have heretofore called forth expressions of condemnation from the nations of the world, have been continued to blacken the sad scene. Desolation, ruin and pillage are pervading the rich field of one of the most fertile and productive regions of the earth, and the incendiaries' torch, public edifices and valuable factories and buildings, is the agent marking the alternate advance or retreat of the contending parties. The protracted continuance of the strife seriously affects the interests of all commercial nations, but those of the United States more than others, by reason of close proximity, a larger trade and intercourse with Cuba, and frequent and intimate personal and social relations which have grown up between its citizens and those of the island. Moreover, the property of our citizens in Cuba is large, and is rendered insecure and depreciated in value and in capacity of production, by the continuation of the strife and the unnatural mode of its conduct. The same is true, differing only in degree, with respect to the interests of people of other nations, and the general interests of humanity demand the early restoration of peace. A reasonable assurance of a near termination of the conflict must, of necessity, soon compel the States thus suffering to consider what the interests of their own people and their duty toward them may demand. I have hoped that Spain would be enabled to establish peace in her colony to afford security to the property and the interests of our citizens, and allow legitimate scope to trade and commerce and the natural productions of the island. Because of this hope, and from an extreme reluctance to interfere in the most remote manner in the affairs of another nation, and especially of one whose sympathy and friendship in the struggling infancy of our own existence must ever be remembered with gratitude, I have patiently and anxiously waited the progress of events. Our own active conflict is too recent for us not to consider the difficulties which surround a Government distracted by a dynastic rebellion at home at the same time that it has to cope with a separate insurrection in a distant colony.

Spain's Weakness.

But whatever causes may have produced the situation which so grievously affects our interests with all Treaty attendant evils, and operating directly upon this country and its people, thus far all the resorts of Spain have proved abortive, and time has marked no improvement in the situation. The armed bands of the insurrection occupy nearly the same ground as in the past, with the difference that from the time to time more lives are sacrificed, more property destroyed, and wider extents of fertile and productive fields and more valuable property constantly wantonly sacrificed to the incendiaries' torch.

The Question of Recognizing Cuban Independence.

In contests of this nature, where a considerable body of people who have attempted to free themselves of the control of the superior government have reached such a point in the occupation of the territory, in power and in general organization as to constitute in fact a body politic, a government in substance as well as in name, possessed of the elements of stability and equipped with the machinery for the administration of internal policy and the execution of its laws, and prepared and able to administer justice at home as well as in its dealings with other powers, it is within the province of those other powers to recognize its existence as a new and independent nation. In such cases other nations simply deal with an actually existing condition of things, and recognize as one of the powers of the earth that body politic possessing the necessary elements, has in fact become a new power in a word, the creation of a new State is a fact. To establish the condition of things essential to the recognition of this fact there must be a people occupying a known territory, united under some known and defined form of government, acknowledged by those subject thereto, in which the functions of government are administered by the usual methods, competent to mete out justice to citizens and strangers, to afford remedies for public and for private wrongs, and able to assume the relative international obligations, and capable of performing the corresponding international duties resulting from its acquisition of the rights of sovereignty and power should not be complete in its organization, ready to take and able to maintain its place among the nations of the earth. While conscious that the insurrection in Cuba has shown a strength and endurance which makes it at least doubtful whether it be in the power of Spain to subdue, it seems unquestionable that no such civil organization exists which may be recognized as an independent Government capable of performing its obligations and entitled to be treated as one of the powers of the earth. A recognition under such circumstances would be inconsistent with the facts, and would compel the power to give its support by force—the Government to which it had really given its only real claim of existence. In my judgment the United States should adhere to the policy and the principles which have heretofore been its rule and safe guides in like contests between revolted colonies and their mother country, and acting only upon the clearest evidence, should avoid any possibility of suspicion or imputation, a recognition of the independence of Cuba being in my opinion impracticable and indefensible.

Belligerent Rights.

The question which next presents itself is that of the recognition of the belligerent rights in the parties to the contest. In a former message to Congress I had occasion to consider this question, and reached the conclusion that the concession to the insurgents, as it was, its incidents did not rise to the fearful dignity of war. Regarding it now, after this lapse of time, I am unable to see that any notable success of any marked or real advance on the part of the insurgents has essentially changed the character of the contest. It has acquired greater age, but not greater or more formidable proportions. It is possible that the acts of foreign powers, and even the acts of Spain herself, of this very nature might be pointed to in defence of such recognition. But now, as in the past history, the United States should carefully avoid the false lights which might lead it into the mazes of doubtful law and of questionable propriety, and adhere rigidly and sternly to the rule which has been its right, and doing only that which is right and honest, and of good report. The question of according or of withholding the rights of belligerency must be judged in every case in view of the particular attending facts. Unless justified by necessity, it is always, and justly, regarded as an unfriendly act, and a gratuitous demonstration of moral support to the rebellion. It is necessary, and it is required, when the interests and rights of another Government, or of its people, are so far affected by a pending civil conflict as to require a definition of its relations to the parties thereto. But this conflict must be one which will be recognized in the sense of international law as war. Belligerence, too, is a fact. The mere existence of contending armed bodies, their occasional conflicts, do not constitute war in the sense required in applying to the existing condition of affairs in Cuba the tests recognized by publicists and writers on international law, and which have been observed by nations of dignity, honesty and power, when free from sensitive or selfish and unworthy motives, I fail to find in the insurrection the existence of such a substantial political organization, real, palpable and manifest to the world, having the forms and capable of the ordinary functions of government towards its own people and to other States, with courts for the administration of justice, with a local habitation, possessing such organization of force, such material, such occupation of territory as to take the contest out of the category of a mere rebellious insurrection or occasional skirmishes, and place it on the terrible footing of war, to which a recognition of belligerency would aim to elevate it.

The Insurrection Only on Land.

The contest, moreover, is solely on land. The insurrection has not possessed itself of a single seaport where it may send forth its flag, nor has it any means of communication with foreign powers, except through the military lines of its adversaries. No apprehension of any of those sudden and difficult complications which a war upon the ocean is apt to precipitate upon the vessels, both commercial and national, and upon the consular officers of other powers, calls for the definition of their relations to the parties to the contest. Considered as a question of expediency, I regard the accordance of belligerent rights still to be as unwise and premature, as I regard it to be at present indispensible as a measure of right.

The Evils of Recognition.

Such recognition entails upon the country according the rights which flow from it difficult and complicated duties, and requires the action from the contending parties of the strict observance of their rights and obligation. It would subject the carrying of arms and munitions of war, which now may be transported freely and without interruption in the vessels of the United States, to detention and to possible seizure. It would give rise to countless vexatious questions, would release the parent Government from responsibility for acts done by the insurgents, and would invest Spain with the right to exercise the supervision recognized by our treaty of 1795 over our commerce on the high seas, a very large part of which, in its traffic between the Atlantic and Gulf States, and between all of them and the States upon the Pacific, passes through the waters which wash the shores of Cuba. The exercise of this supposition could scarcely fail to lead, if not to abuses, certainly to collisions perilous to the peaceful relations of the two States. There can be little doubt to what result such action would lead, if before long draw this nation. It would be unworthy of the United States to inaugurate the possibilities of such a result by means of questionable right or expediency, or by any indirection. Apart from any question of theoretical right, I am satisfied that while the accordance of belligerent rights to the insurgents in Cuba might give them a hope and inducement to protract the struggle, it would be but a delusive hope, which this Government and its people are experiencing, but would draw the United States into complications which it has long and already suffered much to avoid.

The recognition of independence or of belligerency being thus, in my judgment, equally inadmissible, it remains to consider what course shall be pursued should the conflict not soon be brought to an end by the acts of the parties themselves, and should the evils which result threefrom, inflicting all nations, and particularly the United States, continue to increase. I am of the opinion that other nations will be compelled to assume the responsibility which devolves upon them, and to seriously consider the only remaining measures possible—mediation and intervention. Owing, perhaps, to the large expanse of water separating the island from the peninsula, the want of harmony and of personal sympathy between the inhabitants of the colony and those sent hither to govern them, the want of adaption of the ancient colonial system of Europe to the present times, and to the ideas which the events of the past century have given birth to, the commercial parties appear to have within themselves no depository of common confidence, to suggest wisdom when passion and excitement have their sway, and to assume the part of peace makers.

Mediation Declined by Spain.

In this view, in the early days of the contest the good offices of the United States as a mediator were tendered in good faith, without any selfish purpose, in the interest of humanity and in the spirit of friendship for both parties, but were at the time declined by Spain, with a declaration, nevertheless, that at a future time they would be indispensable. No intimation has been received that in the opinion of Spain that time has been reached, and yet the struggle continues, with all its dread heresies and all its injuries to the interests of the United States and of other nations. The war still seems quite capable of working great injury and damage to the other, as well as to all the relations and interests dependent on the expense of peace in the Island. But they seem incapable of bringing it to a adjustment, and both have thus far failed of achieving any success whereby one party shall possess and control the island to the exclusion of the other.

The Only Alternative.

Under these circumstances the agency of others, either by mediation or by intervention, must sooner or later be invoked for the termination of the strife. At the same time, while the interests of the United States, however, are not subject to the particular control of any one government. In 1869, a concession was granted by the French Government to a company which proposed to lay a cable from the shores of France to the United States. At that time there was a telegraphic connection between the United States and the continent of Europe, through the possessions of Great Britain and other States, which, in the event of an association which had, at a large outlay of capital and at great risk, demonstrated the practicability of maintaining such means of communication, and of corresponding advantage to the United States, should not be allowed to monopolize the business of communication between the two continents to those possessing the lines already laid. Within a few months a cable has been laid, known as the United States Direct Cable, connecting the United States directly with Great Britain. As soon as this cable was reported to be in working order the rates of the existing consolidated company were greatly reduced, and, however, a result was announced in this new cable, and immediately the rates of the other line, which had been reduced, were again raised. This cable being now repaired, the rates appear not to be reduced below the point at which before the whole island shall be laid waste and larger sacrifices of life be made, I shall feel it my duty, should my hopes of a satisfactory adjustment and of the early restoration of peace, and the removal of the fruitful causes of complaint, be unhappily disappointed, to make a further communication to Congress at some period not far remote, in which I may make such suggestions, recommending what may then seem to me to be necessary.

Our Relations with Mexico.

The "Free Zone," so called several years since, established along the international current in certain of the States of that republic adjacent to our frontier, remains in full operation. It was always materially injurious to honest traffic, for it operates as an incentive to fraudulent importation by subterfuge, but customs charges, the wants of the inhabitants of this side of the line, and prevents the same wants from being supplied in the United States, thereby to a considerable extent defrauding our revenue and checking honest commercial enterprise. Depredations by armed bands from Mexico on the people of Texas still continue from time to time. Though the main object of the incursions is robbery, they frequently result in the murder of unarmed and peaceably disposed persons, and in some instances even the United States postoffices and mail communications have been attacked. Revewed remonstrances upon this subject have been addressed to the Mexican Government, but without much apparent effect. The military force of this Government disposable for service in that quarter is quite inadequate to effectually guard the line even at those points where the incursions are, and will be, most frequent. But an armed vessel on the Rio Grande for that purpose is on trial, and it is hoped that if not thwarted by the shallowness of the river and other natural obstacles, it may materially contribute to the protection of the herdsmen of Texas.

The proceedings of the Joint Commission under the convention between the United States and Mexico of the 4th of July, 1868, on the subject of claims, will soon be brought to a close. The result of those proceedings will then be communicated to Congress.

Venezuela.

I am happy to announce that the Government of Venezuela has, upon further consideration, practically abandoned its objection to pay to the United States that share of its revenue which some years since it allotted to the Wards to the extinguishment of the claims of foreigners generally. In thus reconsidering its determination, that Government has shown a just sense of self respect which cannot fail to reflect credit upon it in the eyes of all disinterested persons elsewhere. It is to be regretted, however, that its payments, on account of claims of citizens of United States, are still so meagre as to demand that the stipulations of the treaty in regard to the sums to be paid, and the periods when these payments were to take place, should have been so signally disregarded.

Trenties.

Since my last annual message the exchange has been made of the ratification of a treaty of commerce and navigation with Belgium, and of conventions with the Mexican republic for the further extension of the Joint Commission respecting claims with the Hawaiian Islands for commercial reciprocity, and with the Ottoman Empire for extradition, all of which have been duly proclaimed.

Alabama Claims.

The Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims has prosecuted its important duties very assiduously and very satisfactorily. It convened and was organized on the 15th day of July, 1874, and by the terms of the act under which it was created was to exist for one year from that date. The act provided, however, that should it be found impracticable to complete the work of the court before the expiration of the year, the President might, by proclamation, extend the time of duration not to exceed six months beyond the expiration of one year. Having received satisfactory evidence that it would be impracticable to complete the work within the time originally fixed, I issued a proclamation (a copy of which is presented herewith) extending the time of the duration of the Court for a period of six months from and after the twenty-second day of July last. A report made through the Clerk of Courts (communicated herewith) shows the condition of the calendar on the 1st of November last, and a large amount of work which has been accomplished. Thirteen hundred and eighty-two claims have been presented, of which six hundred and eighty-two had been disposed of at the date of the report. I am informed that one hundred and seventy cases were decided during the month of November. Arguments are being made and decisions given in the remaining cases with all the dispatch consistent with the present complication of the questions submitted. Many of these claims are in behalf of mariners, or depend on the evidence of mariners whose absence has delayed the taking on their return of the necessary evidence. It is represented to me that it will be impracticable for the Court to finally dispose of all the cases before it within the present limit of its duration. Justice to the parties claimant, who have been at large expense in preparing their claims and obtaining the evidence in their support, suggests a short extension to enable the Court to dispose of all of the claims which have been presented. I recommend the legislation which may be deemed proper by the Court to complete the work before it.

Claims of Aliens.

I recommend that some suitable provision be made by the creation of a special court, or by conferring the necessary jurisdiction upon some appropriate tribunal, for the consideration and determination of the claims of aliens against the Government of the United States which has arisen in some reasonable time, or which may hereafter arise, excluding all claims barred by treaty provisions or otherwise. It has been found impossible to give proper consideration to these claims by the Executive Deparment of the Government. Such a tribunal would afford an opportunity to aliens other than British subjects to present their claims on account of acts committed against their persons and property during the rebellion, as also those subjects of Great Britain whose claims, having arisen subsequent to the 9th of April, 1865, could not be presented to the late commission organized pursuant to the provisions of the treaty of Washington.

Ocean Telegraph.

The electric telegraph has become an essential and indispensable agent in the transmission of business and social messages. Its operation on land and within the limits of particular States, is particularly under the control of the jurisdiction within which it is established. The lines are, in this sense, however, are not subject to the particular control of any one government. In 1869, a concession was granted by the French Government to a company which proposed to lay a cable from the shores of France to the United States. At that time there was a telegraphic connection between the United States and the continent of Europe, through the possessions of Great Britain and other States, which, in the event of an association which had, at a large outlay of capital and at great risk, demonstrated the practicability of maintaining such means of communication, and of corresponding advantage to the United States, sibly not too large, at the time, for a proper remuneration for so costly an enterprise. It was, however, a heavy charge upon the business of communication, which progress in the commercial intercourse of the world found to be a necessity, and the obtaining of this French concession showed that other capital than that controlled by the enemies of free competition, with the assurance of an adequate return for their outlay. Impressed with the conviction that the interests, not only of the people of the United States, but of the world, demanded or would demand the multiplication of such means of communication between separated continents, I was desirous that the proposed concessions of this concession were deemed by me to be objectionable, particularly one which gave for a long term of years the exclusive right of telegraphic communication between the shores of the United States of France and the United States. I could not concede that any power should claim the right to land a cable on the shores of the United States at the same time it refused to the United States or to its citizens an equal right to land a cable on its shores. The right to control the conditions for the laying of a cable within the jurisdictional limits of the United States, on the common shores with those of any foreign State pertains exclusively to the Government of the United States, under such limitations and conditions as Congress may impose. In the absence of legislation by Congress, I was unwilling, on the one hand, to yield to a foreign State the right to say that its grantees might land on our shores and refused a similar right to our people to land on its shores, and, on the other hand, I was reluctant to deny to the great interests of the world and of civilization the facilities of such communications as were proposed, and therefore withheld any resistance to the landing of any cable on the condition that the offensive monopoly feature of the concession be abandoned, and that the right of any cable which may be established by my grantee of this Government to land on French territory, and to connect with French land lines, and enjoy the necessary facilities or privileges for the use thereof, should be granted as favorable terms as any other company be conceded. As the result thereof, the company in question renounced the exclusive privileges, and upon assurance to it that I was informed that understanding his relinquishment to be construed as granting the entire reciprocity and equal facilities which had been demanded, the opposition to the landing of the cable was withdrawn. The cable under this French concession was landed in the month of July, 1869, and has been an efficient and valuable agent of communication between this country and the other continent. It soon passed under the control of those who had the management of the cable connecting Great Britain with this continent, and thus whatever benefit to the public might have been found in the competition between the two lines was lost, having the greater facilities of an additional line, and the additional security of accident to one of them. But these increased facilities are of little avail to the public, together with the combined control of capital, the two companies have also greater power to prevent the future construction of other lines, and to limit the control of telegraphic communication between the two continents to those possessing the lines already laid. Within a few months a cable has been laid, known as the United States Direct Cable, connecting the United States directly with Great Britain. As soon as this cable was reported to be in working order the rates of the existing consolidated company were greatly reduced, and, however, a result was announced in this new cable, and immediately the rates of the other line, which had been reduced, were again raised. 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I recommend that some suitable provision be made by the creation of a special court, or by conferring the necessary jurisdiction upon some appropriate tribunal, for the consideration and determination of the claims of aliens against the Government of the United States which has arisen in some reasonable time, or which may hereafter arise, excluding all claims barred by treaty provisions or otherwise. It has been found impossible to give proper consideration to these claims by the Executive Deparment of the Government. Such a tribunal would afford an opportunity to aliens other than British subjects to present their claims on account of acts committed against their persons and property during the rebellion, as also those subjects of Great Britain whose claims, having arisen subsequent to the 9th of April, 1865, could not be presented to the late commission organized pursuant to the provisions of the treaty of Washington.

Ocean Telegraph.

The electric telegraph has become an essential and indispensable agent in the transmission of business and social messages. Its operation on land and within the limits of particular States, is particularly under the control of the jurisdiction within which it is established. The lines are, in this sense, however, are not subject to the particular control of any one government. In 1869, a concession was granted by the French Government to a company which proposed to lay a cable from the shores of France to the United States. At that time there was a telegraphic connection between the United States and the continent of Europe, through the possessions of Great Britain and other States, which, in the event of an association which had, at a large outlay of capital and at great risk, demonstrated the practicability of maintaining such means of communication, and of corresponding advantage to the United States, sibly not too large, at the time, for a proper remuneration for so costly an enterprise. It was, however, a heavy charge upon the business of communication, which progress in the commercial intercourse of the world found to be a necessity, and the obtaining of this French concession showed that other capital than that controlled by the enemies of free competition, with the assurance of an adequate return for their outlay. Impressed with the conviction that the interests, not only of the people of the United States, but of the world, demanded or would demand the multiplication of such means of communication between separated continents, I was desirous that the proposed concessions of this concession were deemed by me to be objectionable, particularly one which gave for a long term of years the exclusive right of telegraphic communication between the shores of the United States of France and the United States. I could not concede that any power should claim the right to land a cable on the shores of the United States at the same time it refused to the United States or to its citizens an equal right to land a cable on its shores. The right to control the conditions for the laying of a cable within the jurisdictional limits of the United States, on the common shores with those of any foreign State pertains exclusively to the Government of the United States, under such limitations and conditions as Congress may impose. In the absence of legislation by Congress, I was unwilling, on the one hand, to yield to a foreign State the right to say that its grantees might land on our shores and refused a similar right to our people to land on its shores, and, on the other hand, I was reluctant to deny to the great interests of the world and of civilization the facilities of such communications as were proposed, and therefore withheld any resistance to the landing of any cable on the condition that the offensive monopoly feature of the concession be abandoned, and that the right of any cable which may be established by my grantee of this Government to land on French territory, and to connect with French land lines, and enjoy the necessary facilities or privileges for the use thereof, should be granted as favorable terms as any other company be conceded. As the result thereof, the company in question renounced the exclusive privileges, and upon assurance to it that I was informed that understanding his relinquishment to be construed as granting the entire reciprocity and equal facilities which had been demanded, the opposition to the landing of the cable was withdrawn. The cable under this French concession was landed in the month of July, 1869, and has been an efficient and valuable agent of communication between this country and the other continent. It soon passed under the control of those who had the management of the cable connecting Great Britain with this continent, and thus whatever benefit to the public might have been found in the competition between the two lines was lost, having the greater facilities of an additional line, and the additional security of accident to one of them. But these increased facilities are of little avail to the public, together with the combined control of capital, the two companies have also greater power to prevent the future construction of other lines, and to limit the control of telegraphic communication between the two continents to those possessing the lines already laid. Within a few months a cable has been laid, known as the United States Direct Cable, connecting the United States directly with Great Britain. As soon as this cable was reported to be in working order the rates of the existing consolidated company were greatly reduced, and, however, a result was announced in this new cable, and immediately the rates of the other line, which had been reduced, were again raised. This cable being now repaired, the rates appear not to be reduced below the point at which before the whole island shall be laid waste and larger sacrifices of life be made, I shall feel it my duty, should my hopes of a satisfactory adjustment and of the early restoration of peace, and the removal of the fruitful causes of complaint, be unhappily disappointed, to make a further communication to Congress at some period not far remote, in which I may make such suggestions, recommending what may then seem to me to be necessary.

Our Relations with Mexico.

The "Free Zone," so called several years since, established along the international current in certain of the States of that republic adjacent to our frontier, remains in full operation. It was always materially injurious to honest traffic, for it operates as an incentive to fraudulent importation by subterfuge, but customs charges, the wants of the inhabitants of this side of the line, and prevents the same wants from being supplied in the United States, thereby to a considerable extent defrauding our revenue and checking honest commercial enterprise. Depredations by armed bands from Mexico on the people of Texas still continue from time to time. Though the main object of the incursions is robbery, they frequently result in the murder of unarmed and peaceably disposed persons, and in some instances even the United States postoffices and mail communications have been attacked. Revewed remonstrances upon this subject have been addressed to the Mexican Government, but without much apparent effect. The military force of this Government disposable for service in that quarter is quite inadequate to effectually guard the line even at those points where the incursions are, and will be, most frequent. But an armed vessel on the Rio Grande for that purpose is on trial, and it is hoped that if not thwarted by the shallowness of the river and other natural obstacles, it may materially contribute to the protection of the herdsmen of Texas.

The proceedings of the Joint Commission under the convention between the United States and Mexico of the 4th of July, 1868, on the subject of claims, will soon be brought to a close. The result of those proceedings will then be communicated to Congress.

Venezuela.

I am happy to announce that the Government of Venezuela has, upon further consideration, practically abandoned its objection to pay to the United States that share of its revenue which some years since it allotted to the Wards to the extinguishment of the claims of foreigners generally. In thus reconsidering its determination, that Government has shown a just sense of self respect which cannot fail to reflect credit upon it in the eyes of all disinterested persons elsewhere. It is to be regretted, however, that its payments, on account of claims of citizens of United States, are still so meagre as to demand that the stipulations of the treaty in regard to the sums to be paid, and the periods when these payments were to take place, should have been so signally disregarded.

Trenties.

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